

Survival Story – Chapter 1

There are some things you can never have too many/much of, or so I've told myself for years. Some are more important than others, but the top items on my list are Toilet Paper, Cigarettes, batteries and bulbs. I keep a bundle of 50 BIC lighters on the shelf too, that's about a 5 year supply.

On the food front, I lived on beans for years, supplemented with American style Goulash and with ground beef, onions, tomato sauce and elbow macaroni. I like a dash of chili powder in mine but the rest of the family doesn't and I'm too old and tired to argue. I like great northern beans and pinto beans, the latter flavored with a little onion and garlic. I also like homemade bread, but we've burned up 2 bread machines and the bread really isn't that good.

From the age of 12 years, I've believed in being prepared. In those days, I lived in the Midwest in Tornado Alley. I'd fill 2 2-quart canteens and head for the basement every time we got a tornado warning. I was lucky, the tornado didn't come until I'd left home and was married. It was the most powerful tornado in the history of my home state and they ended up with urban renewal whether they wanted it or not.

More recently, I've been stocking up on things like flashlights, batteries and spare bulbs. On 9/11/01, I bought 25# of rice and 25# of pinto beans. Shortly thereafter, my health went to hell and we stopped stocking up for a while. More recently, the news has reinforced my plans and I made up a little shopping list.

- 100 pounds pinto beans
- 100 pounds of great northern beans
- 4 gallons of oil
- 4 6# cans of Crisco.
- 48 57oz cans of Folgers classic (4 cases)
- 4 cases of diced tomatoes
- 4 cases of niblets
- 4 cases of green beans
- 4 large jars of peanut butter
- 1 case each of tomato and mushroom soup
- 48 quarts of canned peaches
- 100 pounds of flour
- 25 pounds of sugar
- 2 jars of dry yeast
- 6 cartons of Quaker Oats
- 2 cans of baking powder
- 2 boxes, or more, of baking soda
- 36 cans of canned chicken
- 36 cans of canned beef
- 36 cans of canned tuna
- 36 cans of canned ham

36 cans of Spam
1 21ft³ upright freezer filled with meat from Costco, mainly ground beef
1 7kw gas fueled generator to keep the food frozen
2 or 3 55-gallon drums of stabilized gasoline
12 2-gallon jugs of kerosene
12 cans of Coleman fuel
Replacement generators for 2 Coleman stoves
2 replacement Coleman lamps with 24 spare mantles
Increase my meds to a full 90 day supply (more is better)
6 bundles of Charmin jumbo rolls (180 rolls)
26 cartons of Kool's 100 (box)
4 boxes of Snickers bars
When it comes to food, I'll take anything that constitutes a meal in a can, beef stew and chili come to mind.

While that may not sound like a lot of food, it's a start and one hell of a lot more than most people have. I also will keep a minimum of 25# of popcorn because while it doesn't provide much nutrition, it breaks the monotony of the above diet.

I've previously listed the weapons I want, but here's a recap:

1 Mossberg 590A1
1 7.62x51mm Main Battle Rifle, M1A Loaded preferred, but any port in a storm
1 .22 rifle lever action (repeater)
1 .45ACP PT1911 pistol, but I'll probably get a Browning Hi-Power
1 5.56x45mm semi-auto rifle, gas piston, AR-15 preferred but Mini-14 will do

Ammo will be for 2 purposes, hunting and self-defense. Therefore, 200 rounds of 7.62x51mm hunting ammo plus not less than 1,800 rounds of defensive ammo in the same caliber. 10 bricks of .22LR, half solid and half hollow point. 250 rounds of 12 gauge slugs. 250 rounds of 12 pellet 00 buck in 2¾" shells. 250 rounds of assorted hunting shot ranging from #2 to #6. (Possibly 250 rounds of 15 pellet 3" 00 buck and 3" Brenneke slugs.) 250-500 rounds of Gold Dot .45ACP (or, 9mm). 2,000 rounds of 5.56x45mm. Both rifles should be magazine fed and have either 20 or 30 round magazines. The pistol should have at least 5 magazines, but if I get a .45, I'll probably buy 10 from Ammoman. He has M14 magazines at the moment for \$13 each, made in Taiwan.

If there is any money left over from the spending spree, a CD V-715 package deal from KI4U. I need enough KI0₃ for 4 adults and 3 children and would prefer to have enough for 7 adults and 8 children. My shoulder is almost gone so I'll need to replace my stock of Vicodin, I take 2 a day, just enough to put down the pain so I can get to sleep.

I don't have a shelter but the fire stations give out sand bags, so I'll load up on them and if the coming problem is nuclear, I'll empty out the shed and cover it with about 5 layers of sand bags. I think we'll have some notice, so hopefully we'll have time to fill them. 16" of soil gives a protection factor (pf) of 10 and 32" a pf of 100. I have a camping potty in

the shed and my camping gear. My shed is 8'x12' so no one should get lonely. But, we'll probably have to sleep in shifts.

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Some ask in a world gone mad, why bother? I'll tell you why, it not for me, it's for the kids and grandkids. Would I really loot? I would if I could get away with it, for necessities only. I sure as hell don't plan on waiting 5 days for a rifle or 15 days for a handgun. Anything you don't have when the balloon goes up will be difficult, if not impossible, to find. I, for one, don't plan of trading off any ammo but would be willing to trade for more in the calibers I use. Our first aid supplies are fair, but if anyone is seriously hurt, it's going to depend on what kind of medical assistance is available.

Living in Southern California suggests that there are two primary possibilities for a disaster: Earthquake or WW III. The SAF is locked up and due for a 9.0 earthquake and all you have to do to assess the possibility of WW III is read the news, tensions are very high. Newt says it has already started. The house is equipped with an earthquake valve on the gas line so with any kind of luck we won't get a fire.

None of what I have said should come as a surprise to anyone who reads my fiction. I'm not worried about the avian flu; isolation will be the key to avoiding that. That, my N-100 face masks and nitrile gloves. We have a few boxes of those to change the litter pans.

I have certain skills besides fooling around with computers. For example, I do know how to trap and I don't really think hunting down a cow would be all that hard. There isn't much venison in this area anyway, not that I like it. If we have a couple of days' notice, some of the foods items I've listed would be sharply increased. I pretty sure the bank would transfer some of the principal to my account if it looked like we were about to get bombed. They don't like to do that because their fee is ~0.9% of the trust fund balance.

My hot water heater is new and holds 50 gallons of water. It's strapped to the wall so hopefully won't fall down in an earthquake. I can also fill the bath tub to get water to flush the stool when we come out of the shed. Survival is more than anything, a matter of attitude. If I had to, could I actually shoot someone? Try me, but, I may puke afterwards.

The MCLB is surrounded by about 30,000 retired military, so I doubt seriously I try to go there. I do know where I'd go, but I'm not going to tell. He carries M1As, M1911s, Browning Hi-Powers and Remington defensive shotguns. Plus, I don't really like him because he's a jerk.

In my last story, the point I was trying to make was that the current likely disasters are a shortage of food and fuel. But, I started it before Israel went into Lebanon and good old Newt insists this is WW III. He could just be right, you know. If it were me, I wouldn't count on Russia staying out of it, a word to the wise. I'm presently working on getting 20 round mags for a M1A and 30 round mags for a Mini-14. Much of our food is grown in

the Dakotas and they've lost a lot of this year's crop due to a draught. In addition, Louisiana planted half their usual crop of rice. Look for the price of beans and rice to rise sharply in the near future.

It's been a very hot summer and even Pat Robertson is finally convinced of global warming. The count in California is up over 160 heat related deaths, ATM. The power grid is in serious trouble, think of St. Louis and Queens for just 2 examples. It also appears that only the criminals returned to New Orleans.

I may not be particularly well informed, but, I have read MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN (the handwriting on the wall). If TSHTF, we're heading to Gassville, Arkansas or so my younger son informs me. He's a darned fine soldier; I'd be very comfortable living with him. My daughter-in-law, Mary, also spent 4 years in the Army and is a better shot than he is with the M9. I expect our biggest problem will be finding a Gadsden flag.

(If you have trouble reading my stories, it may be because you have Symantec Internet Security. Turn it off until you finished the story.) About us: I'm 63 and have multiple medical problems. 30+ years of boozing wore my body out. Add to that, age related senility and you have a good picture. 5' 5, 150 and able to walk about one block before I'm exhausted. I don't use my electric wheelchair. The wife is 59, 5'4, a little over 250 but it's mostly a big heart. The youngest is 29 and has 2 kids. Her sister is 39 and has one 3 year old kid. Derek is 32, in good condition and has 2 kids at home. His wife is only slightly shorter and mean. Damon, aka Raider Nation, lives in Britt, Iowa and is bi-polar. His 3 kids live with his ex-wife. However, when it comes to our attitudes, ergo, patriotism and politics, we're all about the same.

If TSHTF, I'd imagine Ron will head for Cedar Hill. I haven't talked to Clarence in several months but he might or might not head for Birmingham.

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I've said in several stories that the 4 horsemen are already riding. I wouldn't say it if I didn't believe it. You may have noticed that I'm not shy when it comes to expressing my opinions. They said that Iraq is on the verge of a civil war – surprise, surprise, surprise. I also believe that we're edging closer to the same thing. That ought to be interesting, us against the gun hating liberals. Did you hear Hillary lay out her political agenda when she questioned' Rumsfeld? Her husband was responsible for much of what she accused the current administration of. I didn't notice her broom; she must have left it in her office.

Most of the tips Russ and I have, have been related at least twice. It's good advice but I'm not so sure you have all that long to implement it. Do what Frugal suggests and Build an Ark. We live in the oldest representative republic in the world but it's a toss-up whether the world hates us or Israel more. BTW, I heard the Valley of Jezreel mentioned in one news article. They were talking about where some of the fighting was taking place. Frankly, it's hard to tell if our media supports Hezbollah or Israel. Fox sup-

ports Israel and Wolf, bless his heart, is Jewish. But MSNBC seemed to cloud the issue. CNN should bring Aaron Brown back, but he apparently wasn't liberal enough. I'm getting very tired of hearing about the poor Lebanese.

I also wonder what will happen if Hezbollah actually does send rockets to Tel Aviv. It would be a very bad time to live in Lebanon. If the Syrians cross the border into Israel, that's another story, you can write off Damascus. I don't believe that Israel will be the first country in the Middle East to use nuclear weapons, but I'm equally certain, they'll be the last. If they give us leaflets and tell us to evacuate certain areas of Iraq, I'd believe them.

From the UK Guardian:

Those of us who have long been supporters of Armageddon have naturally been greatly cheered by way the president of the United States has been embracing our cause. Our desire to bring chaos, death and destruction to a greater swathe of humanity has, in the past, often been frustrated by peacemakers and do-gooders of all shades of the political spectrum.

For too long, our aspirations have been derided and criticized. In fact, to be blunt, for more than two millennia we have had to put up with opprobrium and vilification, but now all that will be a thing of the past, for in George Bush we have found an ally – indeed, we have found a leader. A man who is prepared to place himself at the head of the forces of destruction and misery, and who is unafraid of the opinion of the rest of the world.

George Bush has finally put Armageddon firmly on the political agenda, and it is likely to stay there for the foreseeable future.

This means that we Armageddonists need keep to the shadows no longer. Bush and his colleagues in the White House have given us credibility and respectability. They have made our goal their goal, and death, disease, war and famine are now the most likely fate for more people in the Middle East than we Armageddonists had ever dared to hope for.

What is also particularly gratifying – after this long wait – is that George could not have chosen a better spot on Earth for the *End of Things* to begin, nor a more appropriate agent than Israel to get the ball rolling.

After all *Armageddon* is a Hebrew word. It has come to signify *the end of times* or the arrival of catastrophic events, involving huge loss of life. In its origins, however, *Har-Megiddo* meant simply *the mountain of Megiddo* – Megiddo being a site in Israel close to the border with Lebanon.

It is certainly a place that has seen a lot of catastrophe in its time. Although there has not been a city at Megiddo for over 2,000 years, there are, nevertheless the remains of

more than 20 different cities on the site, dating from 3,000 BC. That's an awful lot of human death and destruction.

So it's the perfect place for George to unleash the horsemen of the Apocalypse, and, as Armageddonists, we applaud him. The current assault on Lebanese civilians is sure to swell the ranks of would-be terrorists beyond even our wildest dreams, spreading the violence and mayhem not only throughout the Middle East but into the homelands of America and Britain.

As for the country of Lebanon itself, we Armageddonists predict that, like Iraq, it will sink into a morass of sectarian violence that will fill morgues of the future that have not yet been built. But more than that, we Armageddonists confidently look forward to chaos and havoc quickly getting out of hand and beyond the control of those who started the conflict. It's all part of the fun.

So Armageddonists of the world! Let us unite in praise of George Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld. Let us thank these men for bringing our dreams of violence and disorder to fruition.

Let us hope that whatever half-baked notions fill what passes for their minds, they will continue on this irreversible path to perdition from which the whole world recoils, but seems powerless to stop.

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Anyway, it didn't matter. I discovered that when I realized the Lebanon was getting the good press and Israel and the United States were the bad guys. What could happen, anyway?

- Biological Threat

- Chemical Threat

- Explosions

- Natural Disasters

- Earthquakes

- Extreme Heat

- Fires

- Floods

- Hurricanes

- Landslide and Debris Flow

- Thunderstorms

- Tsunamis

- Tornadoes

- Volcanoes

- Winter Storms
- Nuclear Threats
- Pandemics
- Radiation Threat

That many? Golly, gee whiz, that's a lot. I didn't see any airplanes flying into the WTC on that list. Maybe that falls under explosions. With the exception of Natural Disasters and Pandemics, all of the above could come from a terrorist attack. Some things are very unlikely; Hoover Dam is 660' (200m) thick at its base and 45' (15m) thick at its crest. It contains 4.36 million yards of concrete; it would take a real effort to bring it down. No problem, our borders are secure... there ain't no way anyone could bring in one of those suitcase bombs. However, I'm going to avoid downtown LA for a while. If my doctor wasn't in Northridge, I wouldn't go there at all. But, I have to go, he gives me free samples.

If I did loot, where would I go first? Big Five Sporting Goods is next door to Walgreens and Wal-Mart, so, I have no idea. On one corner are an Albertson's and the other Stater Bros. It's my favorite corner and it's only 1 mile away. Looting is taking TVs anyway. Did you see that several Wal-Mart stores are going to stop carrying guns? The world's largest retailer said it had started phasing out firearms sales at the affected stores earlier this year. In stores where there is sufficient demand for guns, Wal-Mart says it will continue to sell them.

Who started the Lebanon conflict? At 9:05 AM local time on 12 July 2006, a ground contingent of Hezbollah militants attacked two Israeli armored Humvees on a routine patrol along the Israel-Lebanon border near the Israeli village of Zar'it with anti-tank rockets, capturing two Israeli soldiers, and killing three. Five others were killed later on the Lebanese side of the border on 12 July during a mission to rescue the two captured soldiers. In an initial report the Lebanese police force stated that the Israeli soldiers were attacked and captured on the Lebanese side of the border on 12 July during a mission to infiltrate the Lebanese town of Ayta al-Sha'b, though Europe, the UN, the US, and prominent news agencies have characterized the Hezbollah action as "cross-border".

The IDF confirmed the capture of the two Israeli soldiers on 13 July and identified them as Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, both reservists who were on their last day of operational duty.

Hezbollah's attack was named Operation Truthful Promise, after a "promise" by its leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah to capture Israeli soldiers and swap them for Samir Kuntar and other Lebanese prisoners held by Israel.

Hezbollah released a statement saying "Implementing our promise to free Arab prisoners in Israeli jails, our strugglers have captured two Israeli soldiers in southern Leba-

non". Later on, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah declared that "No military operation will return them... The prisoners will not be returned except through one way: indirect negotiations and a trade of prisoners." (Both Sheikh and Sayyid are titles.)

The Federation of American Scientists doesn't agree with DHI's list of getting ready. My friend Russ corrected some of it, but the greatest deficits are in what they offer to help the disabled. "I know it isn't good to laugh about such a serious topic, but when I saw the graphic on Ready.gov suggesting that when a nuclear bomb goes off a hundred feet away you might want to protect yourself by walking around the corner, I just couldn't help myself," said Ivan Oelrich, Vice President of Strategic Security at FAS. "After three years and millions of dollars, taxpayers should expect a better website from the Department of Homeland Security."

Maybe I'll be ready and maybe I won't; and, even if I am it may not make a difference. I don't have any way to transport the wheelchair, if we could pick it up. An 8 hour charge will get me 25 miles, maximum. What's more, it's a long way to Gassville, ~1625 miles. I could make it in 24 hours if I had a driver's license and all the big cities between here and there were intact. I did a lot of driving in my day and all things equal; I can average ~70mph. On the other hand, you've traveled with women and kids, right? You have to stop at every rest area and restaurant between here and there. Which means it would only take 2-3 days, if we got lucky.

It might make a good place to circle the wagons; it's near Bulls Shoals so I guess we'd have plenty of fish to eat. Even better, it's a machinegun state. I wouldn't want a full auto but a suppressor might be nice in certain circumstances. I told you all about the place in story number 29; it was part III of TEOTWAWKI Too and was called Flippin.

How to make good time driving a car: Fill your gas tank in the morning when you leave and don't drink a lot of coffee. Then, with a little practice, you can time it so you fill the car's tank and empty your tank at the same time. I usually got a coke and a snack and kept going. At the worst, I might have to stop at one rest stop between fill-ups and that was in the car with a 500+ mile cruising range. I could make it from Palmdale to Charles City on 5 tanks of gas and it didn't take much longer than taking a plane. I've made it from Palmdale to Seattle, Salt Lake City or Charles City non-stop. If you're hauling kids, take a lot of snacks and games and plan on twice as many stops. Finally, if you need to stop early to empty your tank, refill your gas tank at the same time, you'll get an economy of scale.

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Let's go back and talk about the ammo, the quantities I gave are less than I normally recommend. Normally I recommend 10,000-round of .22LR, ~ 1,000-rounds of shotgun shells and 5,000 rounds per assault/battle rifle. The new numbers are a compromise that considers my age and advice from Derek. He says that if you get into a firefight and a regular battle load isn't enough, you'll probably end up dead anyway. He recommends a Tac Force magazine carrier. The four magazine pouches hold 2 magazines each and

the two grenade pockets 3 each, giving you fourteen in the carrier and one in the rifle for a total of 300 rounds. (Wheels not included.)

Combat kit gear at savvysurvivor.com. We are proud to announce this premium European made gear to the product lineup here. Combat kit gear is designed by soldiers for soldiers, and made of the best materials. The gear is designed in Norway, made in Croatia, and used throughout the world primarily by European professional soldiers. It will hold 8 M1A mags or 12 M16 mags and I saw an Israeli soldier wearing some on TV this past week. \$87 shipped. Derek's recommendation was to buy 10 mags, one for the M1A rifle, one for a butt stock magazine case and 8 in the chest rig. If you're into a Mini-14, a M16 or a 7.62x39mm rifle, the same setup will carry 18 mags. Plus you have utility pouches for other gear. I've always wanted to get my hands on some M-80s, if you tightly taped one to a BIC lighter with several layers of tape, it ought to make a pretty good improvised hand grenade. I know they still make M-80s because the military uses them to simulate grenade blasts. The explosive power of a BIC lighter is equivalent to ¼ stick of dynamite. An M-80 fuse is a 6 second fuse. A couple of welders at John Deere lost legs when a drop of weld fell on their pocket and exploded their BIC. It would also be illegal since it would constitute a bomb or a destructive device, and naturally, you wouldn't want to make one.

In the middle of the fourth week of the Lebanon War, the tide began to turn in Israel's favor. DEBKAF's military sources report the battlefield finally responded to the effect of Israel's air might, its tank columns, the pounding by mobile artillery and naval craft and its repeated armored infantry assaults.

After losing 44 fighting men, more than 30 civilians, many thousands of wounded and billions of dollars of damage, finally, the Israeli military was given the chance to do what it does best: focus its firepower instead of spreading it out thin over too many targets. The setbacks of the first three weeks were partly due to tactical incompetence and lag-gard decision-making on the part of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and defense minister Peretz. Israeli troops therefore spent too long in abrading combat against stubborn Hezbollah resistance in such places as Maroun er Ras and Bint Jubeil. But as soon as Israeli ground forces shifted to the massive, long-distance firing mode which they know best, the impact on the warfront was immediate. The battle went their way with a minimum of casualties. In places where Israeli troops adhered to the close combat tactics practiced in the first three weeks, they continued to suffer high casualties.

Survival Story Chapter 2

Hezbollah soon showed signs of distress. Lacking the weapons and resources to stand up to IDF's precise-shooting juggernaut, their commanders quickly pulled their men out most combat sectors of South Lebanon and ordered them to regroup in five places:

1. The Western Sector and the center of Tyre.
2. The Wadi Hajar pocket east of Tyre.
3. The Central Sector surrounding Bint Jubeil, where the outcome is still unresolved after many days of fighting.
4. The Wadi Saluki area northwest of the northernmost Israeli town of Metullah.
5. The Eastern Sector, including al Khiam, the Shabaa Farms and Mt Dov, which has seen little fighting – although last week Israeli forces began – then stopped – a major offensive before it got underway.

These pockets are now the main launching-pads for rockets fired into Israel. Outside, there is no ground fighting in South Lebanon but for Israeli air strikes.

Hezbollah also has also been using the Tapuach and al-Haroub areas south and north-east of Sidon for shooting rockets. It is from this region that Hezbollah fired the long-range Khaibar-1 missiles at Hadera Friday night, August 4, which came 45 km short of Tel Aviv. Saturday morning, Sidon's 200,000 inhabitants and its outlying villages up to the Zahrani River were warned to leave their homes and head north to escape the coming Israeli air offensive.

Until the Khaibar attack on Hadera, the concentration of Hezbollah's rocket launchers and stores in and around Sidon had been immune from Israeli attack – largely because Olmert and his senior ministers refused to increase the number of ground troops deployed in Lebanon. The military commanders had to do their best with the limited numbers available.

In other words, with the right manpower level, Hezbollah's ability to fire rockets can be denied, notwithstanding claims by Israel officials and generals that there is no way to do this when most of Hezbollah's 13,000-rocket stockpile remains intact.

But even cutting down on the daily 200-plus rocket blitz on northern Israel is not plain sailing because:

First, Neither the Israeli Air Force nor any other air force is capable of completely halting rocket fire from the ground. In the relatively small distances between Lebanon and Israel, the short-range Katyusha rockets have the effect of medium-range weapons, while the short-to-medium range rockets perform like long-range missiles.

Second, Israel does not have enough infantry on the ground to make substantial inroads on Hezbollah's rocket-firing capabilities.

Third, Iran and Syria are constantly restocking Hezbollah's diminishing supplies of rockets of all types, launchers and operating manpower by a round-the-clock airlift from Iran via Syrian military air fields. Some of the incoming supplies are destroyed by Israeli air attacks as they cross into Lebanon, but a substantial part is conveyed to Hezbollah by smuggling networks employing mules to traverse Lebanese mountain paths. Even if 2,000 have been wiped out and a similar amount has been fired, no one knows how many are left in stock because it is replenished. As long as that corridor is not severed by bombing the Syrian stopover air facilities, Iran will continue to top up Hezbollah's stockpile. Therefore, the rocket offensive cannot be reduced by very much.

Fourth, Israeli forces do not operate in all parts of South Lebanon.

Hezbollah's withdrawal to five pockets in South Lebanon affords the IDF certain tactical advantages - although liabilities too.

The Advantages:

It is now possible to carve the region the Israeli army controls into three sections, western, central and eastern, a tactic familiar from the Gaza Strip, for encumbering Hezbollah guerrilla movement between the sections. The goal is to confine Hezbollah to the five pockets and place them under blockade. They can then be made to capitulate or face liquidation.

The Liabilities:

Leaving the two banks of the Litani River, the Nabatea plain and Hazbaya to the north of the river in Hezbollah hands leaves a route open for its reinforcements to come through and to strike Israeli forces from the rear.

Nonetheless, by Thursday, August 3, Hezbollah was showing signs of being in trouble.

A. Local Hezbollah village commanders signaled repeated appeals for more manpower and ammunition. The appeals were not met because outside forces cannot break through the defense lines held by the advancing Israeli troops. The village commanders were therefore told by their superiors to fight to the last man and last bullet and reserve the last grenade for suicide.

B. Hezbollah's shadowy leader, the long-wanted Imad Mughniyeh, was hurriedly appointed commander of the southern front as a last resort to save South Lebanon from falling to Israel. DEBKAfile's military and counter-terror sources maintain that this appointment raises the conflict to a new and dangerous level on several counts.

Mughniyeh, wanted for a quarter of a century by the FBI for the huge bombing attacks he orchestrated on the US embassy in Beirut and American and French troops, as well as a spate of hijackings and murders, is important enough to take orders from no-one

ranking lower than Iran's supreme ruler, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Those orders come through the Revolutionary Guards commander Gen. Rahim Safavi.

Therefore, placing Mughniyeh at the head of Hezbollah forces in South Lebanon confronts prime minister Olmert uncomfortably close to Iran's supreme leader; ranges defense minister Peretz opposite his Iranian counterpart Mustafa Najer and chief of staff Lt. Gen Dan Halutz opposite Gen. Safavi, while on the warfront, Israel's war leaders face the formidable Mughniyeh, Tehran's secret weapon for rescuing Hezbollah from collapse.

Informed circles in the West have a high opinion of Mughniyeh's military, intelligence and tactical skills. His hand was seen in the transformation of al Qaeda's 2001 defeat in Afghanistan into a launch pad for its anti-US campaign in Iraq and many other ventures in the terror war against America. After the death of Abu Musab al Zarqawi, Mughniyeh is rated the world Islamic terror movement's most outstanding field commander.

Therefore, while the appointment is a measure of Israel's belated military success in the Lebanese war, it also brings the conflict ever closer to two dangerous orbits – Tehran and al Qaeda. Mughniyeh is the only undercover agent in the Middle East who enjoys the complete personal trust of Khamenei and Osama bin Laden, on both of whom he is in a position to call for aid. (Mossad got him in 2008 with a car bomb.)

On the diplomatic front, even if the United States and France can get together on a unified UN Security Council ceasefire resolution, DEBKAF's military sources report that neither Iran nor Hezbollah has any intention of complying with a resolution dictated by the United States, France and Israel.

Newt Gingrich has maintained a career as a political analyst and consultant, and continues to write works related to government and other subjects such as historical fiction. He has expressed interest in being a candidate for the 2008 Republican nomination for the Presidency. So has Hillary and neither one has a chance. Anyway, on Fox News, Newt maintains that the Israeli-Hezbollah war is WWIII. He may just be right, you know, Hezbollah won't quit until Israel pulls out and Israel won't quit until Hezbollah is disarmed and peacekeepers are on the ground. Worse, Iran admits supplying replacement rockets to Hezbollah. At this point in time, Hezbollah has only used 3,000 rockets and the word was that they had 12,000 or more, plus replacements!

Do I agree with Newt? Do I even like him? I never voted for him. Do you know what he did before he was a politician besides cheat on his wives? He was a college history professor. He may be right, the situation in the Middle East is a Mexican Standoff. We don't like Hezbollah because they're the ones behind the Marine Corps Barracks bombing. And Word and others think the correct spelling is Hizbollah. (Either is correct.)

I think it's bean and rice time and have said so. In 90 days or less, I'll have all the things I've listed, in the meantime, I have 16 rounds for my Nazi .32 auto (7.65x17mm). After all, Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were both killed by a .32 ACP pistol. The Sauer und Sohn 38H is a small semiautomatic pistol made in Nazi Germany from 1938 until

the end of WWII by the prestigious firm J.P. Sauer und Sohn which, at the time, was based in Suhl, Germany and is now a part of Sig-Sauer. Sauer manufactures Sig firearms.

Never mind that I told you the Navy retired the Tomcat. They're still aboard the Roosevelt and won't be replaced until 2007. Were they also less than truthful about the Phoenix missile built by Hughes? After 30 years of highly accomplished service, the US Navy retired its first long-range air-to-air missile, the AIM-54 Phoenix, 30 September 2004 (Global Security). The Phoenix missile is the Navy's only long-range air-to-air missile. It is an airborne weapons control system with multiple-target handling capabilities, used to kill multiple air targets with conventional warheads. Near simultaneous launch is possible against up to six targets in all weather and heavy jamming environments. The improved Phoenix, the AIM-54C, can better counter projected threats from tactical aircraft and cruise missiles. US Navy – last updated 3 April 2005. The A-6E was removed from US Naval Air Forces in February 1997. One hundred (100) aircraft are stored in War Reserve and the additional excess aircraft are stored for potential Foreign Military Sales (FMS).

The problem I see with assumptions made by the FAS Organization is that their first assumption is wrong; they assume the Cold War ended in 1991. I ask you, did the Cold War really end? When the Berlin Wall fell, it most certainly changed character, but I don't believe that it really ended. What's more, there is really no way to know how many nuclear nations there are. There might be some players who aren't considered nuclear nations, Saudi Arabia and Iran come to mind. Those 2 countries are the 2 largest producers of oil. What all did Hugo Chávez buy from Russia? Three billion dollars' worth of something.

Each time Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez embarks on a world tour, he takes every opportunity to promote his unique brand of socialism, South American regionalism and the evil of Washington.

His current tour – which has taken him through Belarus, Russia, Vietnam and Mali – has been a remarkable one so far. While in Russia, Chávez signed off on a billion dollars' worth of weapons deals that have cemented as fact that the Venezuelan military has the most firepower in Latin America.

Russian support for Chávez is irresponsible. It has given Russian president Vladimir Putin limited leverage over his on-again-off-again ally US president George W Bush, and a significant shot in the arm to Russia's military industry. But the ripple effects of Russia's geopolitical support for Chávista power aspirations have destabilized the balance of power in South America. Most significantly, Brazil's regional leadership has been challenged.

Brazilian president Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva has his hands full with a presidential election campaign just underway. He is in no place to take a position that could potentially be used by his competition to steal votes. However, members of the Brazilian Congress

are not sitting still. Former Brazilian president Jose Sarney penned a strongly worded editorial on 23 July that acknowledged two facts that should worry Brazil: Chávez's announcement that he would remain in office until 2031, and the fact that by the end of this year, the Venezuelan leader will have consolidated a powerful army. (Close... 2013... not 2031.)

Writing in the Folha de Sao Paulo daily newspaper, Sarney says that Venezuela is a major concern for Brazilian security. Brazilian war-game scenarios prepare the country's military to wage battle on two fronts, Bolivia and Colombia, but now Brazil must consider Venezuela as well.

Sarney poignantly argues that the money Brazil would spend to increase its military strength should be spent on bread instead. Brazil, like every other country in Latin America, needs to spend more money on social programs that decrease disparity and support the poorest, who live on less than US \$1 a day.

In the meantime, Chávez, the champion of socialism in South America, spends more money on military toys than he does on social programs.

Chávez has purchased at least 30 Su-30 fighter jets, some 53 combat and support helicopters, and according to reports, Tor-M1 air-defense missile systems. These conventional weapons purchases stack-up against a small arms purchase of 100,000 AK-103 assault rifles from Russia. There also plans to establish at least one AK-series rifles factory in Venezuela.

But for many observers, the million dollar is question is why Venezuela needs all these weapons if it is clear that the US will not invade.

Some believe that Chávez has purchased the aircraft and helicopters to consolidate his power over what has been an increasingly fractious military in Venezuela by placing most of the firepower with Venezuela's air force, Chávez's pet branch. But officially, the helicopters will be used to help patrol Venezuela's borders with Colombia, especially in Zulia, the Venezuelan state where Colombian rebels and paramilitaries have increasingly become present.

Perhaps most worrying, the rifles will be used to replace old rifles, which may then go to the army of reservists and civilian militia currently in training. A new rifle factory could help arm the million civilians Chávez hopes to have trained over the next few years, ostensibly to defend the country against a US invasion.

Meanwhile, Chávez has stepped up his regionalist rhetoric since Venezuela's official entrance into South America's customs union, Mercosur. Apart from claiming that South America, through Mercosur, should form an economic union, complete with a common currency, Chávez says South America should unify its armed forces into one anti-imperialist power.

But the idea of such an economic union backed by a region-wide military is delusional. Nevertheless, Chávez pushes forward.

Just last May, he was in Bolivia with his defense minister, General Raul Baudel, the former commander of the Venezuelan armed forces. Clearly, the two met with Bolivian generals, and many believe that those meetings discussed the possibility of Venezuelans training Bolivians in the art of asymmetrical combat strategies - Chávez's favored form of warfare.

Brazil is already worried that Venezuelan and Cuban spies are crawling around in Bolivia, a country that shares a very porous border with Brazil. Chávez's recent visit there is no doubt unsettling to Brazil's top generals. The reality of warfare in South America is more talked about than planned for, but pragmatic Brazilian generals cannot ignore the threat Venezuelan military power poses to Brazilian sovereignty. If Brazil chooses to enter an arms race, it would not be a stretch to speculate that other countries, including Colombia, might soon follow.

Rather than spurring regional integration, Chávez is promoting South American fragmentation, and Putin's move to sell weapons to Venezuela gives Russia geopolitical leverage that is not proportional to the amount of destabilization it creates in South America.

The region is a long way from international conflict, but the current path leads to tension. With all the talk of regional trade initiatives, a transcontinental pipeline and joint initiatives to do this and that bubbling on the surface, it is easy to overlook the growing concern in Brazil that is too deep to register with mainstream international media.

As much as Chávez desires to become the leader, commander-in-chief and ruler supreme of South America, he must know that it will never happen. But these are late-night thoughts he probably keeps to himself, and certainly does not share with Putin. Both men know that Sarney is right. Latin America should be spending its money on bread, not bullets, but instead is playing risky war games that will lead to destabilization, not a unified front against imperialism that Chávez claims to promote.

Sam Logan is an investigative journalist who has reported on security, energy, politics, economics, organized crime, terrorism and black markets in Latin America since 1999. He is currently completing his work on *Nice Guys Die First*, a forthcoming non-fiction narrative about organized crime in Brazil.

Iran is seeking to import large consignments of bomb-making uranium from the African mining area that produced the Hiroshima bomb, an investigation has revealed.

A United Nations report, dated July 18, said there was "no doubt" that a huge shipment of smuggled uranium 238, uncovered by customs officials in Tanzania, was transported from the Lubumbashi mines in the Congo.

Tanzanian customs officials told The Sunday Times it was destined for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, and was stopped on October 22 last year during a routine check.

The disclosure will heighten western fears about the extent of Iran's presumed nuclear weapons program and the strategic implications of Iran's continuing support for Hezbollah during the war with Israel.

It has also emerged that terror cells backed by Iran may be prepared to mount attacks against nuclear power plants in Britain. Intelligence circulating in Whitehall suggests that sleeper cells linked to Tehran have been conducting reconnaissance at some nuclear sites in preparation for a possible attack.

The parliamentary intelligence and security committee has reported that Iran represented one of the three biggest security threats to Britain. The UN Security Council has given Iran until the end of this month to halt its uranium enrichment activities. The UN has threatened sanctions if Tehran fails to do so.

A senior Tanzanian customs official said the illicit uranium shipment was found hidden in a consignment of coltan, a rare mineral used to make chips in mobile telephones. The shipment was destined for smelting in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, delivered via Bandar Abbas, Iran's biggest port.

"There were several containers due to be shipped and they were all routinely scanned with a Geiger counter," the official said.

"This one was very radioactive. When we opened the container it was full of drums of coltan. Each drum contains about 50kg of ore. When the first and second rows were removed, the ones after that were found to be drums of uranium."

In a nuclear reactor, uranium 238 can be used to breed plutonium used in nuclear weapons.

The customs officer, who spoke to The Sunday Times on condition he was not named, added: "The container was put in a secure part of the port and it was later taken away, by the Americans, I think, or at least with their help. We have all been told not to talk to anyone about this."

The report by the UN investigation team was submitted to the chairman of the UN sanctions committee, Oswaldo de Rivero, at the end of July and will be considered soon by the Security Council.

It states that Tanzania provided "limited data" on three other shipments of radioactive materials seized in Dar es Salaam over the past 10 years.

The experts said: "In reference to the last shipment from October 2005, the Tanzanian government left no doubt that the uranium was transported from Lubumbashi by road through Zambia to the United Republic of Tanzania."

Lubumbashi is the capital of mineral-rich Katanga province, home of the Shinkolobwe uranium mine that produced material for the two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The mine has officially been closed since 1961, before the country's independence from Belgium, but the UN investigators have told the Security Council that they found evidence of illegal mining still going on at the site.

In 1999 there were reports that the Congolese authorities had tried to re-open the mine with the help of North Korea. In recent years miners are said to have broken open the lids and extracted ore from the shafts, while police and local authorities turned a blind eye.

In June a parliamentary committee warned that Britain could be attacked by Iranian terrorists if tensions increased.

A source with access to current MI5 assessments said: "There is great concern about Iranian sleeper cells inside this country. The intelligence services are taking this threat very seriously."

It is rare that Donald Rumsfeld, the US defense secretary, is lost for words. Yet last week he was subjected to a tirade of criticism for his conduct of the war in Iraq from Senator Hillary Clinton, the Democrat favorite for president in 2008.

"Yes we hear a lot of happy talk and rosy scenarios, but because of the administration's strategic incompetence and record of blunders and, frankly, the record of incompetence in executing, you are presiding over a failed policy," Clinton charged at a hearing of the Senate armed services committee. "Given your track record ... why should we believe your assurances now?"

Rumsfeld, who had not wanted to appear before the committee at all, reeled. "My goodness," he said, before embarking on an explanation of "the unfortunate and tragic thing that's taking place".

The defense secretary could not bring himself to say the phrase, civil war, but his top commanders did it for him. Their assessment was almost as blunt as that of William Patey, Britain's envoy to Iraq, who warned in a parting letter to London that the country was in a "low intensity civil war" with diminishing prospects of achieving a stable democracy.

General John Abizaid, the head of US forces in the Middle East, told the Senate committee that the sectarian violence was “probably as bad as I have seen it, in Baghdad in particular, and if not stopped, it is possible that Iraq could move towards civil war”.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Peter Pace, backed him up. “We do have the possibility of that developing into civil war.” He went on to say: “Shi’ite and Sunni are going to have to love their children more than they hate each other.”

If there was any doubt about the enduring nature of the conflict, Pace came up with the very same phrase that Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, used in frustration about the attitude of “the Arabs” towards her young nation. That was in 1957 and, as the fighting in Lebanon demonstrates there is still no peace in the Middle East.

The statistics in Iraq tell their own grim story. Over the course of the year, the number of violent killings of civilians has risen from 1,178 in January to 3,149 in June, the latest period for which figures are available.

Despite the death two months ago of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian terrorist, there were 858 bombings in July. Yesterday there were two blasts in a market in Baqouba, not far from where the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq was killed.

Colonel Larry Wilkerson, Colin Powell’s former chief of staff at the State Department, said it was encouraging that the two top generals “were finally seen to be telling a little bit of the truth”, but that the situation in Iraq was much worse than they admitted.

“It already is a civil war,” Wilkerson said. “Even if the killings continue at the same rate of 40 to 100 a day, the figures are staggering. There are more deaths in Iraq than in Lebanon.”

The generals’ admission that Iraq could slide into civil war has left Americans wondering what kind of country their nation is fighting to defend.

With each new revelation of an atrocity by US troops, such as the alleged massacre of 24 Iraqi civilians at Haditha, Americans fear their soldiers are becoming twisted and corrupted by a war that they are losing the ability to win.

In Baghdad, a pre-court martial hearing is set to open today into the case of five soldiers, accused of assisting in the rape and murder in March of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl in Mahmoudiya and the killing of her family.

Attempts to blame the deaths on the psychopathic behavior of one alleged ringleader, Steven Green, who was discharged from the army for mental problems, have fallen apart. According to legal documents filed by a military magistrate, it appears that two other soldiers may have raped the teenage girl before Green and that they went on to set fire to her body.

The bravest names are being dragged into the mud. Four US soldiers charged with killing three handcuffed Iraqis alleged in court last week that Colonel Michael Steele, one of the heroes depicted in the film *Black Hawk Down*, based on the ill-fated 1993 raid on Mogadishu, Somalia, gave orders to his men to “kill them all” – a reference to Iraqi insurgents.

Survival Story – Chapter 3

“I’d be amazed if Michael Steele had ordered any kind of indiscriminate killing,” said Mark Bowden, author of *Black Hawk Down*, who interviewed Steele at length for his book. “I think of him as a good soldier and a good man. It does not seem to be in character.”

For Bowden, “the truth is that atrocities happen in every conflict and always will. One of the good things about modern warfare is that we learn about them”. But for Americans, discomfited by the lack of progress in Iraq, the war is hurting their image of themselves.

According to the latest Gallup poll, Americans believe it was a mistake to go to war in Iraq by a majority of 56% to 41%.

In Iraq, Mowaffak al-Rubaie, the national security adviser, blamed the western media for exaggerating the hopelessness of the situation. “We are not in a civil war. I admit we have civil strife,” he said, “but it is not between the Shi’ites and the Sunnis. This is between the extremists, a very small number on each side.”

From its inception, the democratically elected government of Nouri al-Maliki has been promising to restore security in the Iraqi capital. Al-Rubaie said there was a “detailed plan with the help of the multinational force” to take on the sectarians and extremists.

One indicator of the deteriorating situation is that Iraqis are now afraid of men in uniform, after a spate of armed kidnappings by gangs wearing the clothing and insignia of the Iraqi security forces, and often driving a car with blue lights.

Majid Hamid, 41, a Sunni human rights worker whose brother was killed by uniformed men, said: “Whenever I see uniforms now I figure they must be militias. I immediately try to avoid them. If I have my gun, I know I need to be ready to use it.”

The Iraqi interior minister, Jawad al-Bolani, has ordered new police uniforms with more complicated camouflage designs and patches designed to foil would-be impersonators “who carry out bad activities under cover of this institution”. But the new uniforms will be distributed to less than a fifth of the security forces and are likely to be copied within days. A Baghdad tailor said that, at \$33 apiece, the money for manufacturing illicit uniforms was too good to pass up.

Al-Rubaie admitted the infiltration of the Iraqi armed forces and police had made it difficult to distinguish friend from foe, but said there were new plans for vetting the “personality profile” of recruits.

This weekend US troops are being drafted into Baghdad to bolster security amid warnings by American commanders that there is little hope of drawing down troop numbers in Iraq this year. Yet the moment for successfully “liberating” the Iraqi capital, the crucial task the new government set itself at its inception, may already have passed.

“There’s no reason to believe they are going to get a grip on the capital, even with the additional forces,” said Wilkerson. “The city sprawls out for miles and trying to get a grip on it could take five or six divisions and a year to succeed.” America had neither the time nor the troop numbers, he added.

“Matters could unravel very quickly if a confluence of events occurs,” Wilkerson warned. “If American support for the war falls off rapidly, if we are forced to set a timetable for withdrawal and the insurgents think they are not just stalemating us but winning they will let it all hang out.

“The enemy can smell blood and the more you counter them with hard power, the more you lose.”

SRIFA, Lebanon – They use three-digit numbers as code names, live off canned tuna and tape over their jewelry so an accidental twinkle doesn’t give away their position to Israeli warplanes.

Among the Hezbollah fighters prowling what remains of the heavily bombed south Lebanese village of Srifa are a pair of former middle school history teachers who have given up their grade books for two-way radios and Kalashnikov rifles.

Over cups of coffee and the din of Hezbollah’s FM radio station narrating developments on the front lines, they opened up to visitors recently and offered a glimpse into the guerrillas’ secretive world.

“This is the battle we have long expected and long prepared for,” said Haj Rabia Abu Hussein – known to his soldiers simply as “103.”

“I know my mission. I must make my rockets hit Israel,” he said matter-of-factly.

The 40-year-old field commander, who oversees military activities in one sector – generally comprising three villages – of the Hezbollah-dominated south, said he has fired many such rockets since the conflict began three weeks ago.

As Mr. Hussein talked, he fingered his Motorola radio, his means of communication with his soldiers farther afield. He wore a blue denim button-down shirt and a baseball cap that he slung backward when the conversation turned intimate.

Mr. Hussein sat beside Abu Mohammad, 44, a longtime friend in Reeboks, a loose-fitting T-shirt and cargo pants.

In their fashion choices, mild manners and neatly trimmed beards, Mr. Mohammad – code name “121” – and Mr. Hussein very much fit the Hezbollah mold.

They shift seamlessly from civilian garb to soldiers’ wear, they said.

“It’s not reasonable to walk around in military uniforms and carry rifles when, for example, the Red Cross comes into town,” Mr. Hussein said.

The bucolic farming village they grew up in is one of dozens scattered across these hills that are absorbing the brunt of the Israeli air strikes. The Shi’ite fighters are outgunned, outmanned and confronting one of the most technologically savvy armies in the world. Still, Hezbollah rockets continue to fall on northern Israel.

Mr. Hussein and Mr. Mohammad, not their real names, explained how the militants continue to dodge Israel’s wrath and live to fight another day.

“We use local knowledge,” said Mr. Hussein. “On the radio, we talk about a certain tree or a certain cliff. How will the Israelis understand that?”

In their current struggle, the shared history of fellow fighters is a powerful weapon that helps them evade Israeli intelligence, they said.

“For example, Haj used to love someone about 20 years ago,” Mr. Mohammad said. “So I’ll tell him, ‘Haj, go and meet me at the house of the girl you used to love, who melted your heart.’”

The men survive on what they call “the mujahedeen’s lunch.”

“We eat mostly canned food, mortadella, tuna and some chocolate,” said Mr. Hussein. “But yesterday we had fried potatoes, and sometimes we make eggs.”

Mr. Hussein – who joined Hezbollah in 1982 to fight a previous Israeli occupation of Lebanon that ended in 2000 – has covered a large ring on his right index finger with tape. The ring glistens in the sun and might be picked up by a trolling Israeli drone, he fears, but it’s his lucky charm, engraved with a prayer to Ali Ibn Abu Talib, revered by Shi’ites as the rightful successor to the prophet Muhammad.

“It says ‘Ya Ali,’ and it protects me. It’s been blessed at a number of religious shrines,” he said.

The fighters pepper their narrative of resistance with references to Islamic history.

“Muslims have the battle between Muhammad and the Koraysh,” said Mohammad, referring to the prophet’s early struggle against Mecca’s merchant class.

“There was a big difference in the numbers between the two parties, but the prophet Muhammad fought and won. God said, ‘Don’t worry, I will assist you with angels you can’t see.’”

Hezbollah fighters, now scattered throughout the south, “are as numerous as those angels,” he said.

Despite their pious rhetoric, the Hezbollah fighters are not heartless killers in the al Qaeda mold, the men said.

“We don’t love killing,” said Mr. Hussein. “We look at all people as brothers. We deal with people as people, regardless of religion, but we will defend our land, our honor and our dignity.

“Just as we love martyrdom, we also have love for life; we don’t want to die just to die.”

BAGHDAD – US soldiers sent to beef up security in Baghdad were seen for the first time on the streets of the capital yesterday as Iraqi police used loudspeakers to reassure people that the Americans were there to protect them.

But at least 21 persons were killed or found dead, most of them in the capital, wracked by bombings and sectarian slayings.

The dead included a Shi’ite couple and their two daughters abducted earlier in the day in Baghdad’s mostly Sunni area of Dora, police said.

With Sunni-Shi’ite killings on the rise, about 3,700 soldiers of the Army’s 172nd Stryker Brigade were brought from northern Iraq to bolster US and Iraqi security forces that have struggled to contain the violence in Baghdad.

Several Stryker armored vehicles took positions in the mostly Sunni district of Ghazalayah, one of the city’s most dangerous areas. Police used loudspeakers to encourage residents to reopen shops and go about their business normally because the soldiers would protect them.

US commanders hope the presence of heavily armed American troops will intimidate sectarian death squads thought to be involved in many of the killings and will reassure Iraqis that they will be protected by Iraq’s predominantly Shi’ite security forces.

Moving the Stryker brigade to Baghdad, however, meant drawing down, at least temporarily, the US military presence in northern Iraq. The brigade was based in Mosul but had subordinate units scattered over a wide area, including routes used by foreign militants slipping in from Syria.

Fears of trouble in the north rose Friday when a car bomb killed a police colonel in Mosul and triggered a firefight between police and insurgents. Iraq’s Defense Ministry and police announced that 55 suspected insurgents had been captured around Mosul after the violence.

A curfew remained in effect for a second day in the eastern part of Mosul as police searched for insurgents who escaped.

Nevertheless, provincial Gov. Duraid Mohammed Kashmoula said he was pleased with the performance of the Iraqi police, who fled their posts during a November 2004 insurgent uprising but stood their ground Friday.

“The terrorists thought that police were going to run away, but this will not happen again. We will not give them that opportunity,” Mr. Kashmoula said.

The US command said the risk of moving the Stryker brigade was worth taking because of the grave situation in Baghdad, where sectarian tensions are high.

Sectarian bloodshed has soared in the capital since the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in Samarra.

In addition to the Shi'ite family slain in Baghdad, police found 13 bodies yesterday – four floating in the Tigris River 25 miles south of the capital and the rest in various neighborhoods of the city. All had been shot, and most showed signs of torture, police said.

Two mortar shells landed on a house in southern Baghdad late yesterday, killing one person and injuring two, police said, and two low-ranking members of Saddam Hussein's former regime were fatally shot in separate incidents yesterday.

In Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, two bombs exploded within minutes yesterday. The first bomb destroyed a grocery store, and the second targeted police and rescuers who rushed to the scene. Eight persons were wounded, police said.

Washington Times –North Korea's launch of seven ballistic missiles, six them over four hours on the Fourth of July, gave us some useful lessons: confirmation that appeasement does not work and defenses are a good thing, and more are needed.

When North Korea's launch preparations were seen by satellite, the whole world pleaded with Pyongyang not to break the missile flight test moratorium it had observed since 1999. Restraint would be rewarded with aid and benefits, at least from South Korea. But to no avail. North Korea went ahead with the most impressive series of peacetime missile launches ever seen.

Appeasement did not work, but neither did threats. Former Clinton era defense officials William Perry and Ashton Carter suggested a pre-emptive strike by cruise missiles to destroy the North's long-range Taepodong missile on its launch pad. If this provocative suggestion was meant to cow North Korea, it did not. Instead, Pyongyang justified its actions by accusing the US of planning to attack.

Intelligence analysts say North Korea launched three Scuds, three Nodongs, and one Taepodong-2 (TD-2) in a single day. Some were observed or tracked by satellites, ra-

dars in Japan, RC-135 electronic reconnaissance aircraft and by US and Japanese Aegis destroyers. The three-stage TD-2 exploded after 42 seconds and fell into the sea. It appeared heading across northern Japan to splash down in the Pacific somewhere between Japan and the Hawaiian Islands.

In its 1998 Taepodong-1 launch, North Korea showed it had solved the formidable engineering challenge of building a multistage missile. This time, it did not work. But the six shorter-range missiles did. Four landed in the same area of the Sea of Japan, suggesting improved accuracy. The sixth and seventh appear to be new extended-range Scud-ERs with up to double the range of the 300-mile Scud-C.

North Korea already operates the 800-mile Nodong, which can reach most of Japan. While a new 600-mile missile also could reach parts of Japan, its main purpose likely is to hold at risk all of South Korea, including US bases, from launch-sites near the Chinese and Russian borders that would be hard to attack.

The TD-2 failure provides small comfort. North Korea's continuing missile and nuclear weapon developments, with the help of Iran and others, endangers a large part of the Western Pacific. Japanese press reports claim 10 Iranian observers were at the North Korean launches. And a recent analysis of North Korea's nuclear weapons program indicates it now has enough separated plutonium for from 4 to 13 nuclear weapons, and could have much more in just a few years.

US bases in South Korea and Japan already are under the gun. Deployment of Patriot PAC-3 missile interceptors to Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa has been speeded up to begin this month. And the Aegis cruiser USS Shiloh, which carries SM-3 missile interceptors for flight tests, is on its way to Japan. Washington and Tokyo are discussing possibly accelerating shipment of both PAC-3s for deployment near Tokyo and SM-3s to be carried on Japan's Kongō class Aegis destroyers.

The Missile Defense Agency is equipping 18 US Aegis cruisers and destroyers with missile-tracking radar and SM-3 interceptors, 56 to be on board by 2008. A new high-speed interceptor known as SM-3 Block 2 is being developed jointly by the US and Japan, which will enable Aegis ships of both countries, to intercept longer-range missiles in the ascent phase. Despite its promise, the Block 2 model is not expected to be operational until 2015.

The TD-2 launch shows the importance of defending our 50th state. It may not have the range to reach Hawaii, but North Korea and Iran are working on one that will. To defend against such missiles the US will have 13 interceptors in Alaska and two in California by year's end. Since two interceptors will be fired at each missile, which is a real threat: To increase the odds of an intercept, a total of two obviously is insufficient. Hawaii also can be defended from California, so the missile defenses there should be increased from two interceptors to at least 10 or 12.

One lesson from North Korea's missile launches is that more and better defenses are needed in the Pacific. As it completes action on the 2007 defense budget, Congress should consider buying more SM-3 ship-based interceptors, speed development of the SM-3 Block 2, and order 10 more ground-based interceptors to be based in California. James Hackett is a contributing writer to The Washington Times and is based in Carlsbad, Calif.

Amish among us

Drawn by reasonable land prices in northeast Iowa, they quietly change the economy where they live.

By Erin Crawford
REGISTER STAFF WRITER
August 6, 2006

Edgewood, Ia. – Cattle shuffle impatiently in their stalls before the livestock auction begins in a sale barn, but the farmers in the room are not in a hurry.

About 50 are milling in the barn, enjoying burgers and cups of ice cream from the cafe. At least one-third are Amish.

"Good thing my air-conditioning is working," one farmer says about the hot weather.

"Mine's not," replies an Amish man wearing a brimmed straw hat, black pants and suspenders over a long-sleeved blue shirt.

"Maybe it would work better if you went to a different church," the farmer jokes back. He settles into a seat in the small sale arena as calves up for sale step onto the sawdust stage.

Such is the easy relationship between the locals and a fast-growing community of Amish that has taken root just outside Edgewood, a small town in northeast Iowa.

"We grew by 80 people since the last census," said Elise Bergan of Edgewood Economic Development. "That's just the city, not the rural area."

In the last two decades, the Amish along the county road running northeast from Edgewood have expanded from a few families to nearly 50.

Although they separate themselves from much of the town's activities, their economic presence has been felt in local businesses and in the increased sightings of horses and buggies rolling down county road C7X.

The town seems happy to let the Amish live quietly, not making them a tourist attraction.

“Edgewood isn’t trying to capitalize on the Amish community,” said Jerry Maker, who runs the sale barn. “Some towns have big signs. Edgewood doesn’t.”

The interaction is most apparent on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, when the Amish come into town to buy or sell livestock at the sale barn, shop for groceries, visit a chiropractor or do some banking.

Arlyn Maifield, senior vice president at the Community Savings Bank, says most Amish families work with the bank to finance up to 100 acres, plus home construction.

“You have to learn that you can’t pick up a phone and call them, but other than that they’re like any other segment,” he said.

In return, Edgewood residents hire the Amish to shoe horses, build barns and work on their houses.

It’s business as usual - only without the benefit of phones, electricity, cars or computers.

County road C7X is lined with new homes, clusters of small stores and barns full of chickens and bleating goats, all signs of the growing Amish community.

Thanks to affordable land and close family ties, the number of Amish has increased near Edgewood, from a few families in the late 1980s to nearly 50 families and two churches.

Stores along the road include a clock repair shop and a harness store. Other businesses sell an eclectic variety of items, from dented merchandise to handmade rustic wood furniture and dry goods.

The local Amish also work in carpentry to supplement or supply their income.

The families have come from Wisconsin, Montana, Illinois and the much larger Hazleton Amish community near Oelwein, causing business to flourish and property values to rise.

Amos Christner, 56, a tall man skilled in carpentry, moved here 10 years ago and built a large A-frame office building for his pole barn-building business.

Several of his children have moved near Edgewood, as well. His daughter, Kathryn Keim, 26, her husband and four children moved into the second and third stories of the building on July 4.

They live together in one large room for the moment, though Kathryn is hoping to soon move into her own home. The room has several beds, a sewing machine, chairs and bureaus, a cedar chest and the peculiar devices that make Amish domestic life a little easier, such as a gas-powered iron.

“(My husband) wants a place with not so much traffic,” she said. “It’s hard to keep the children off the road.”

Christner said he is pleased with the area.

“It’s probably as good or better than any other place,” he said, noting that taxes here are lower than in Wisconsin.

“There’s a bigger work force and a lot of business, a lot going on in Iowa. People are good to get along with, and it’s mostly a farming community.”

He also said his land value has increased from \$1,000 an acre to \$4,000 an acre.

Locals said the Amish have revived farms other people were going broke on.

“They’ve mainly bought rougher farm ground that hasn’t been as productive,” Maifield said. “There’s a misconception that (the Amish) don’t pay property and income taxes. It’s just Social Security they’re exempt from.”

Many see it as an economic windfall.

“They’ve created a nice retirement for some farmers who had borderline land,” said Karl Worsham, owner of Karl’s Grocery in Edgewood.

The farmers who make up the Amish community have had to be nimble to adjust to agriculture’s economic realities.

They have switched their dairy herds from the less profitable cows to goats.

They sell fresh produce from their huge vegetable gardens, although they still use most for family consumption.

A few, like John Henry Yoder, 37, are making the move to certified organic farming to boost profits, as well as to support their own value system.

“I believe in organic,” Yoder said.

Another Hazleton transplant, Emma Helmuth, said Hazleton had flat land, “so we had to learn different ways to farm.”

Business owners have learned different ways, too.

In mid-July, it is just a little too hot to be comfortable inside the small Woods Edge Country Store, where Helmuth sells cloth, work boots and hats and some household goods and accessories.

She wears a floor-length full-skirted dress with long sleeves, as all the women do, and holds a handkerchief to dab sweat from her brow.

Her family moved from Hazleton 2 years ago.

“We wanted a change,” Helmuth said. “You know how the Amish are. We like to move around.

“We miss the people, but it was nice making new friends and it helps knowing half the people.

“Right after we got here, I thought I’ll never know everybody and my way around, but in a couple of months, I knew everybody.”

Christner explained the Amish tendency to move: “Seems like when they start into an area, everyone wants to move in, and when people leave, everyone wants to leave.”

Another reason the Amish move is to find a church better aligned with their own values. Amish communities are centered around churches, which typically have about 30 member families. Each sets its own rules.

When the Helmuths chose to leave Hazleton for another church, they gave up some of the conveniences of a larger Amish community.

“I think Edgewood should be a little bigger,” Helmuth said. “It’d be nice to have a Fareway Store.”

The youngest of her eight children is now 8, allowing her to pursue the longtime goal of running a store as her father did.

She said she enjoys book work and joked her two older daughters “fight” to take care of customers. About half of them are “English” - the term for anyone who doesn’t belong to the Amish sect. The Amish primarily speak Pennsylvania Dutch, and know little English until they reach school age.

Her younger sons sometimes sell night crawlers to people on their way to the river for some fishing, and her two older sons work at the pallet factory owned by Perry Miller, who moved to the Edgewood area as a young man.

He was married in 1998, and now has six boys, the oldest age 7.

In December, the 31-year-old started the process of learning and taking over an operation that makes pallets from lumber. He now runs the factory, employing four Amish, the oldest of whom is 18, to work the different lines in the factory.

Their work clothes are the same as the farmers - a long-sleeved shirt with black pants and suspenders.

Survival Story – Chapter 4

The Amish believe in simple clothes, though what constitutes simple is defined by individual churches within a community. In this community, accepted colors include blue, green, brown and black.

“People are really nice,” Miller said. “... I’ve made a lot of money in Iowa already.”

As the community grows, Edgewood and its neighbors may have a harder time keeping their successes quiet.

The Amish view tourism with mixed feelings. The income is nice, but some said the curiosity can be invasive and corrupts their religious goal to stay separate from what they consider worldly.

Daniel K. Borntreger, 37, who is planning to start a fine furniture shop, sees both sides.

“It would get too busy, a lot of traffic, but in some ways it’s nice,” he said.

Perhaps tensions would be higher if Edgewood was losing population and shuttering businesses just as the Amish were prospering.

But that’s not the case.

The local grocer, Karl Worsham, said business is as good as it has ever been.

Nearly every storefront in town is occupied, with shops including a floral and gift shop, a small grocery store and a downtown restaurant/bar that several business leaders created as a partnership.

“This is not a community with three to five people who do the work,” said Jay ***e, president of Del-Clay Farm Equipment.

As owner of the local sale barn, where members of both communities frequently meet, Jerry Maker is a pivotal member of both worlds.

“I do business with whoever does business with me,” he said.

Everyone in town has time to give Maker a hello, and the local bar has his name on a sign, along with a photo of the Budweiser Clydesdale team, which he managed for years.

He sports a broad mustache, drives a “farm truck” and has a “jackalope” hanging on his office wall.

Yet, Maker is by no means a lifelong Edgewood denizen. He bought his Edgewood business in 1995 and then moved to neighboring Strawberry Point, where he raises horses and cattle.

He has high praise for Edgewood's business community. The town has a large lumber operation in Kendrick Forest Products, new manufacturing, a newspaper, a growing bank and a farm equipment store.

A \$1 million sports park for soccer, baseball and football is nearly completed. It was half-funded by private donations.

"The average age of our business owners is 40," Bergan said. "A lot of times, (towns) want to be a bedroom community. We want to be self-supporting."

The Amish, even if they don't participate in the town's churches, schools or civic organizations, are part of that.

"It's all connected," Bergan said. "The more people who want to raise a family here, the better. (The Amish have) a different way of life and people are accepting of it."

Captions on accompanying pictures:

John Henry Yoder, 37, and his team of Belgians cultivate organic soybeans northeast of Edgewood on July 18. Yoder farmed on relatively flat terrain near Hazleton before moving his family to Clayton County's rolling hills several years ago. He also raises poultry and maintains a milking goat herd. Yoder has been switching to organic farming.

Amish men and boys, wearing traditional straw hats, watch as a Holstein is auctioned at Edgewood Livestock Commission on July 18. Jonas Hershberger, 38, center, sits with friends Lee Geistkemper, 65, left, and Robert Schissel, 67. Hershberger is part of an Amish community northeast of Edgewood. He raises dairy cows, grows alfalfa and has a windmill sales and repair business.

Iowa is an interesting place, while predominately Caucasian, they are well represented with a multitude of races and religions. After the Vietnam war, hundreds of boat people were sponsored by various local churches. In the Muscatine area, the former pickle belt, you find a large population of Latinos and every large city (there are 9) has a substantial black population. These days, they mostly grow soybeans, corn, hogs, alcohol and bio-diesel, they've been using E10 for over 30 years. The folks there are survivalists but not in the usual sense. Some folks built bomb shelters during the '50s, but they're few and far between, everyone thought you were odd if you built one.

But here I sat, in Palmdale, CA, the high desert, without the money in my hands to get prepared. I did the next best thing, I made lists. I had a food list, an equipment list and a weapons and ammo list. A list is an interesting thing, that's what they say a ship is doing when it starts to tip over. It's one thing to talk about it and quite another to do it. But

Sharon said I had time and she'd factored in the cost of the freezer and about \$1,200 for food to fill it. That would include pork steak, pork loins, 12% ground beef (ground round), beef roasts, beef steaks, bacon, sausage and probably some fish products, frozen shrimp and the like. A survival freezer shouldn't contain things that melt or thaw quickly. If there's room, a few gallon jugs of frozen water can be helpful in keeping things frozen.

You got the water bottles by rinsing out 2 liter pop bottles and refilling them with filtered water that could become drinking water in a pinch. If she wanted cheese, that would go in the freezer too. The key was to date every package and rotate them, as long as you did that the meat should always be good. The main enemy to storing frozen food was freezer burn caused by oxygen in the package and that's why you wrapped the meat in plastic first followed by Kraft paper, the so called double wrap.

In order to really be prepared, one had to anticipate the 'what' part. Right or wrong, I moved a nuclear attack by terrorists to the top of my list. We could have an earthquake anytime but not another big one in my life time. I also dismissed a global thermonuclear war simply because everyone one had too much to lose, they didn't call it MAD or NUTS (nuclear armed terror states or nuclear utilization theorists) without a reason.

Which, of course, brings us to the sieve we call our borders. They can't inspect all of the containers coming through the ports and not all nukes are large. Even some of the bombs and warheads are relatively small. Can you imagine what would happen if 10 were imported and exploded in our ten largest cities? After examining the effects on the FAS blast calculator, I can and it isn't very good. Even the suitcase bombs would be bad, but what if they could actually 'import' 10 strategic warheads that had been modified to be exploded without all the fancy PAL codes, etc., a 'simple' matter of eliminating the arming steps.

While Washington DC isn't one of the 10 largest cities, it has more strategic importance than the rest. That would make the target list: Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas and San Antonio. With the exception of Washington, the other 9 cities have the 9 largest populations, each over 1,000,000. However, things aren't always as they appear. The 9 largest metropolitan areas are: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Miami, Houston, Washington, Atlanta and Detroit. It makes a difference; Phoenix, San Diego and San Antonio go away, to be replaced by, Miami, Atlanta and Detroit. It would make a difference which cities list the terrorists used.

In years gone by, we joked about people flooding into the Antelope Valley after a huge disaster in LA. We overlooked one thing, if they came our way after a nuclear event; they'd be right in front of a wave of radioactive fallout. Any kind of earthquake that could actually force people to evacuate LA would probably hit Palmdale just as bad or worse; most likely it would be 'the big one'. All 14 overpasses on Highway 14 would probably be down, slowing their advance.

A person would like to think that in a state where you almost need a license to own a BB gun, the LA liberals wouldn't be heavily armed. According to one website, there are only 27 assault weapons dealers in the entire state of California. One of them, Santa Fe Gun Galleria, is in Palmdale. You can tell they're one of a select group; their prices start at MSRP and go up. They have 3,000 guns in stock, the largest inventory in LA County or so they say. I think The Gun Shop in Lancaster might dispute that, but they don't advertise. Neither does High Desert Storm, the other big gun shop that Jeff and Sandy Storm run.

We had a sample of what an emergency might be like, except we had notice and we didn't read it very carefully. The Palmdale Water District is replacing the water meters in our neighborhood. The notice said to expect an outage from 7am to 4pm on August X. The fine print said it would only be for ½ hour. We filled pitchers with water to make coffee and the tub with water to flush the stool. I forgot about it when I got up and flushed the stool. When it refilled, I turned on the water and washed up, 'strange, I thought. I said something to the wife and she point out the fine print.

I watched the guy install the new meter, took him less than 5 minutes and probably more like 3. Somehow, I don't think it was a good test, neither earthquakes or terrorists send out warnings. Out of the list of Natural Disasters, all we have left for Palmdale are:

1. Earthquakes
2. Extreme Heat
3. Fires
4. Thunderstorms
5. Tornadoes

So far this year, we've had 2, 3 and 4. Numbers 1 and 5 are rare in the Antelope Valley. However, of the two, I believe number 1 is more likely to happen. Returning to the list, we see:

6. Biological Threat
7. Chemical Threat
8. Explosions
9. Nuclear Threats (bomb???)
10. Pandemics
11. Radiation Threat (power plant???, dirty bomb???)

About the only explosion that could affect our neighborhood would be a gas explosion, I put that at the bottom of the list. I could go through the entire list and explain away number 7 easily enough. I see numbers 6 and 10 as the same threat, just different sources. One might say the same about numbers 9 and 11. In one story or another, I'd speculated all of them and being self-interested (selfish) we Three Amigos always managed to survive.

One rule is to never say never, a truckload of chemicals could crash on 47th Street East in the middle of the night when the wind was out of the east. The corner of R Street and 47th Street is one of the worst in the Valley for accidents. A pandemic should give enough notice to get some Tamiflu, seeing how I never leave the house and assuming the drugstore has some. Somehow I believe that I'd be in the high risk group for any kind of bug, I'm so healthy, you know.

About 10 years ago, a group of gangsters showed up at the front door one night, I've told that story before. It probably wouldn't happen again, but you never know, my ex-son-in-law wore a blue bandana. The thing is he's neither recovered nor reformed; he just avoids getting caught most of the time. He's in good shape; there are only 1 or 2 warrants out on him, ATM. You can imagine what a careful driver that makes him; he doesn't have a license, as usual.

While an airburst nuke produces less fallout, it damages a larger area. I used the blast mapper at FAS.org to determine the difference between an air burst and a ground burst of the same sized weapon. I was shocked by the change in the damage. Sure hope nobody ever nukes us, barring the door won't protect us against the Indians. You know the tribe, they cause the yellow box to go click, click. My crystal ball says that whatever is coming isn't far off, I hope we can get ready before it comes. If it holds off until Christmas 2006, we might be able to make it; otherwise...

I don't like the Ruger 10/22, I think it was that darned rotary magazine that put me off on the gun. I do like lever action rifles and have owned 6 or 7 over the years. I think I'd go with a Marline 39A (2nd choice) or a Winchester 9422 (1st choice). Used is ok if they're in very good mechanical condition. The shotgun will definitely be a Mossberg 590A1, I've owned a Winchester model 12 and several 870s and like the 870. I can buy a FAL rifle for around \$1,100 or I can buy a M1A Loaded model for ~\$1,400. However, the Mossberg has certain attractions too. I've owned Mini-14s and never once had a problem with them. As far as looks and function go, a Mini-14 in a Butler Creek folding stock and after-market flashhider plus some 30-round magazines was a nice little weapon. Tricked out, it was also illegal in California and I didn't want to go to jail. Moreover, it is like a shrunken M1A so it's one less gun to learn to disassemble and clean.

Handguns: I've have about a dozen or more over the years and they need knockdown power. A .357 magnum isn't much difference in power from a .45 Colt, but both are slow to load, hence the PT1911 and a pocketful of 8 round magazines. In some ways, a gun is like a Ham radio setup, a great radio with a lousy antenna isn't worth much. On the topic of weapons, a very good gun with lousy ammo is about the same. I really like the Browning Hi-Power but its expense and 9mm, sort of a .38 short auto. Whatever I get, it has to fit a small set of hands.

So let's go back to Sharon's list and talk about the freezer. We have plenty of power outages in Palmdale and a 3kw generator will be totally necessary. The first generator I bought 10 years ago came from Harbor Freight Tools and Chris has it. Other than changing the oil and sparkplug all he's ever had to do was tweak the carburetor. We

don't need much, maybe 3-4kw and gasoline is fine with me. I could run it for a very long time of 110-gallons of stabilized gasoline. I'll need a case of oil and perhaps some filters plus I'm sure Chris or Matt can keep it running. It would also give us spare gas for the Daewoo. What the hell, most of my Dell computer was built in China.

We've talked and talked and she's beginning to agree to loading up on food. As I told her, dry pasta is good forever, just like beans and rice. We're learning on beans today, she soaked some GN beans overnight and plans to cook them with a little leftover ham and maybe some onion (very little, I hope). After the beans swelled, she started with 2 cups of dry beans, the bowl didn't look very full and she asked, "Should I add some more?" "One cup," I said. She found a 16 ounce package and added the whole bag. This morning, the bowl was full to the top and I just smiled, we'll be eating beans for 3-4 days; maybe longer, I'm the only one who will eat leftovers, maybe a week.

Anyway, now she says a 3kw genset isn't big enough. There's a 5kw unit that runs 15 hours on 5 gallons of gas at 50% power, for under \$500. Ask yourself, "If I lived 3 miles from the San Andreas Fault, would I put in a home standby generator or a small portable generator?" If you say home standby, you must live in a house built like Ft. Knox. What you should do is install backup power units on your computer so they can shut down without losing anything and put in a generator big enough to power your refrigerator(s) and or freezer(s). It's not a good idea to run a computer on a portable generator. I didn't say it couldn't be done, I said it's not a good idea. A refrigerator or freezer draws ~800 watts and needs 1,500-2,000w to start. Thus the 5kw unit I described would mostly be at 50% power if you ran it 24/7 and 2 drums of gas should last you ~264+ hours, 11 days. If you only ran it 6 hours a day, it would last about 1½ months. Considering the price of gas cans, 2 55-gallon drums would be cheaper.

Fleataxi and I had a long visit and discussed various topics including weapons, etc. Due to a possible change in circumstances, my gun budget may increase to \$2,500 or go to zero, the circumstance aren't important. After the bills are caught up, Sharon's list includes: a new gas dryer, a new upright freezer and a quilting chair. It also includes money for my M1A rifle. FT points out that I can't see 600 yards, so I'll have to scope the rifle. He also told me that I wouldn't need much ammo. I said, "Hah, I'm hiding behind a log and doing spray and pray." (cluck, cluck)

Impact Guns has the Loaded model in stock, hurray! After he and I talked, I got to thinking. I'm buying the rifle in case I need it, but primarily to leave it to Derek. I think maybe the Loaded is the most cost effective way to go; ergo, the most bang for the buck. We also talked about various .223 rifles and I'm going for a ranch model Mini-14. Then I'll buy a few parts and 'fix' it. California's laws may be Constitutional, but they're immoral, I plan to ignore them. Yes sir, the booze I drank was VERY expensive; I went through an entire gun collection.

I'll only ever buy 1 M1A rifle, unless someone buys a lottery ticket and wins. If that happens, you see my new address in either Arizona or Nevada. Which reminds me, she

and I were talking about houses. I told her when we won the lottery; I'd build the perfect house. She described what she thought I meant. She wasn't even close.

My vision of a perfect house would start by putting in an underground silo and topping it with a dome. 12" of concrete has a PF of 5. If that were covered by 64" of soil, you'd have a PF of $5 + 17.78 = 22.78$. Two to the 22.78 power = 7,191,085. The silo wouldn't go very deep, maybe 60' and would serve as a storage space, much as I always mentioned in my stories. If the lights went out, the diesel generator would kick in and we'd have enough fuel to last for a year. The generator would probably be a Koehler with a maximum output of 113 amps at 240 volts (4 lead, stacked), I lean towards the 30REOZJB. 1.0 to 2.8gph which translates to 8,766 gallons and 24,545 gallons per year (8,766 hours). So, 40,000 gallons would be more than enough because you wouldn't need to cool the house.

Remember, we'd only build it if we won the lottery. There wouldn't be any windows, only large LCD screens framed to look like windows and connected to cameras on the outside. Somehow, I believe it would have double blast doors, two sets, front and back. Double doors? Think airlock not double leaf doors, although they might be double leaf doors. The space between the doors could be filled with sand after the doors were closed from a hopper mounted above. When you were ready to leave, the sand could be drained into a catch basin below the airlock. (I've seen too many Mummy movies.) It could then be augured back up to the overhead hopper. If you really wanted the structure strong, you wouldn't cut any holes in the dome and enter through the silo wall. And, the doors would be filled with concrete. You could bury the whole thing and it would only need to be about 10' underground. At 25' underground, the inside temp of an uninsulated home would be about 58° but the monolithic domes I referred to have 4" of insulation if they're buried.

You can build additional domes as fuel or water tanks for about 25¢ a gallon. It's a shame you can't fill the fuel tank for the same price. At one time you could, but in those days, \$100 a week wasn't a bad income so it's all relative. You're old if you can remember when they came out with canned soda. In 1963 Ermal Fraze of Dayton, Ohio invented the integral rivet and ring-pull tab for opening a can and received US patent No. 3,349,949. These pull tabs were a common form of litter – and a lingering hazard for bare feet, especially at public beaches (as witnessed in the third verse of the Jimmy Buffett song *Margaritaville*). A further danger occurred when users dropped the tab into the can after opening it, and then drank from it; occasionally the sharp metal tab would be ingested or inhaled. The "stay-on tab" or "ecology end" was invented in the mid-1970's which eliminated the hazards of ring-pull tabs.

Nibblin on sponge cake
Watchin the sun bake
All of those tourists covered with oil
Strummin my six-string
On my front porch swing
Smell those shrimp they're beginnin to boil

Chorus:

Wastin away again in margaritaville
Searching for my lost shaker of salt
Some people claim that there's a woman to blame
But I know it's nobodys fault

I don't know the reason
I stayed here all season
Nothin to show but this brand new tattoo
But it's a real beauty
A mexican cutie
How it got here I haven't a clue

Chorus:

Wastin away again in margaritaville
Searchin for my lost shaker of salt
Some people claim that there's a woman to blame
Now I think
Hell, it could be my fault

I blew out my flip-flop
Stepped on a pop-top
Cut my heel had to cruise on back home
But there's booze in the blender
And soon it will render
That frozen concoction that helps me hang on

Wastin away again in margaritaville
Searching for my lost shaker of salt
Some people claim that there's a woman to blame
But I know it's my own damn fault
Yes and some people claim that there's a woman to blame
And I know it's my own damn fault

My other list (there's a headache in every bottle):

Jack Daniel's
Bombay Sapphire
Jose Cuervo 1800
Chivas Regal
Maker's Mark

That last story I wrote, *When We Were Young* didn't go the way I wanted it too, either. Listing all of the terrorists' events was an afterthought, not the reason I wrote the story. The stuff popped on the US Department of State website and I copied it. The list was

almost 30 pages long. Then to update the list, I had to look up 2004-2006 on Wiki and sift out the other events. I could have gone back to the attempt on Truman when he was living in Blair House while the White House was being refinished. On November 1, 1950, Puerto Rican nationalists Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo attempted to assassinate Truman in the Blair House.

Insurgency is defined as: 1. The quality or circumstance of being rebellious; or, 2. An instance of rebellion; an insurgence. The synonyms are: Organized opposition intended to change or overthrow existing authority: insurgence, insurrection, mutiny, rebellion, revolt, revolution, sedition or uprising. Terrorism is: The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence by a person or an organized group against people or property with the intention of intimidating or coercing societies or governments, often for ideological or political reasons.

Examples: The Haganah was mostly defensive in nature, which among other things caused several members to split off and form the militant group Irgun (initially known as Hagana Bet) in 1931. The Irgun adhered to a much more active approach, which included attacks and initiation of armed actions against the British, such as attacking British military headquarters, the King David Hotel, which killed 91 people. Haganah on the other hand often preferred restraint. A further split occurred when Avraham Stern left the Irgun to form Lehi, (also known as the Stern Gang) which was much more extreme in its methods. Haganah eventually became the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). The Irgun laid down their weapons and became a political party, Herut and several mergers later, the Likud. Lehi eventually dissolved and also became part of IDF.

You can be very certain that the Israelis understand terrorists; many of the former members of Haganah, Irgun and Lehi are still around. Hell, the American Revolution was an insurrection, the difference being that once we defeated England, we became a country and that ended it. It took us 10 years after the war ended to actually create the Constitution of the United States. Some issues were sidestepped at the time, like slavery, but 80+ years later, we had a Civil War and got it mostly straightened out. We did that with the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and again with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It may not be perfect, but we're working on it. The Emancipation Proclamation didn't really mean squat, it was purely a political statement that didn't really free all of the slaves, only some of the slaves.

The simple fact that we're working on getting it right has resulted in: The United States is the longest-surviving extant Constitutional Republic, with the oldest wholly written Constitution in the world. Its government operates as a representative democracy through a congressional system under a set of powers specified by its Constitution.

Survival Story – Chapter 5

Well, I've been a Life Member of the NRA since 1964, what did you expect? I moved up a notch to an Endowment member a few years ago and Patron later. I believe all federal and state firearms laws are illegal and states like California only serve to exacerbate the problem. Not letting a convicted felon owning a firearm contradicts the concept of rehabilitation. They can get the right restored, not an easy thing because it generally takes a pardon. However, it can be done so I'm not going there.

In the US felons often receive additional punishments such as the loss of voting rights, exclusion from certain lines of work, prohibition from obtaining certain licenses, exclusion from purchase/possession of firearms or ammunition, and ineligibility to run for or be elected to public office. In addition, some states consider a felony conviction to be grounds for an uncontested divorce. These, among other losses of privileges not included explicitly in sentencing, are known as collateral consequences of criminal charges, which sound a whole lot like collateral damages.

Theoretically, federal law allows persons convicted of felonies in a federal US district court to apply to have their record expunged after a certain period of time with a clean record. However, the US Congress has refused to fund the federal agency mandated with handling the applications of convicted felons to have their record expunged. This means that, in practice, federal felons cannot have their records expunged. For state law convictions, expunction is determined by the law of the state. Some states do not allow this, regardless of the offense, resulting in a subclass of citizens. These citizens can have extreme difficulty finding a job or even a place to live, regardless of qualifications or references.

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1. Teach; and,
2. Entertain. (That what public TV claims they do.)

It would also be a good idea to remember what I wrote; it could come in handy someday. Sharon is more worried about WW III than 'the big one'. When Iraq officially moves from whatever its status is now, we can pull out because it will be a Civil War and we no longer belong. My opinion. Until that happens, we need to stay and see if we can help them establish their not our, form of democracy. The fly in the ointment is spelled Iran.

When Iran gets po'd and cuts off the oil supply it won't directly affect the US. However, it will put the countries that do depend on Iran for oil into the same market we're in. I also assume that if Iran cuts off its oil, Venezuela will follow. That's where we get most of our oil; there and from the Saudis. We also buy oil from Mexico and the smaller countries in the Middle East, but some of those countries came out in support of Hezbollah at the UN. I didn't check on Nigeria, due to crumbling infrastructure, ongoing civil strife in the Niger-Delta – its main oil producing region – and corruption, oil production and export is

not at 100% capacity. And to top it off, there's that little problem at Prudhoe Bay that won't be resolved for about 5 months, January 2007.

The three major needs of humans is probably the main reason for nations to go to war. These needs are food, water and shelter. If a nation or group is deprived of these essentials they resort to war to try and attempt to fix the problem. That doesn't include fuel, but it's implied; fuel is necessary to produce and transport food. Maybe my best bet would drive my wheelchair to Blackbird Park at Plant 42 and wait for the nuke. About the time I got there, we'd get the earthquake and I couldn't get back home. If Palmdale sits on a dry lakebed does that mean the soil will liquefy?

The US government said it had raised the security threat level for aviation following Britain's announcement on Thursday it had foiled a plot to bomb aircraft traveling from there to the United States. "For that reason, the United States Government has raised the nation's threat level to Severe, or Red, for commercial flights originating in the United Kingdom bound for the United States," a statement attributed to Homeland Insecurity Secretary Michael Chertoff.

"To defend further against any remaining threat from this plot, we will also raise the threat level to High, or Orange, for all commercial aviation operating in or destined for the United States."

It said security checks would be intensified and no liquids would be allowed on airplanes, including beverages, hair gels and lotions.

British police said on Thursday they had thwarted a plot to blow up aircraft in mid-flight between Britain and the United States and arrested more than 15 people. Britain's security services raised the threat level to the country to "critical" from "severe," the highest of its five ratings which means "an attack is expected imminently." News of the arrests and heightened security threat came amid high international tension over the war in Lebanon and the week British Prime Minister headed on holiday to the Caribbean.

Did the clock just go tick again? Three of the 11 Egyptian students who failed to show up at a Montana university last month were taken into custody Wednesday. The FBI on Saturday issued a nationwide alert to law enforcement agencies. Included were the students' names, ages, passport numbers and photographs. "At the present time there are no known associations to any terrorist groups. Approach with caution," the lookout bulletin said.

"Following this morning's police action, the Department for Transport has asked all UK airports to apply additional security measures designed to ensure passenger safety. These measures will prevent passengers from carrying hand luggage into the cabin of an aircraft with the following exceptions (which must be placed in a plastic bag):

- Pocket size wallets and pocket size purses plus contents (for example money, credit cards, identity cards etc. (not handbags);

- Travel documents essential for the journey (for example passports and travel tickets);
- Prescription medicines and medical items sufficient and essential for the flight (e.g. diabetic kit), except in liquid form unless verified as authentic;
- Spectacles and sunglasses, without cases;
- Contact lens holders, without bottles of solution;
- For those traveling with an infant: baby food, milk (the contents of each bottle must be tasted by the accompanying passenger);
- Sanitary items sufficient and essential for the flight (nappies, wipes, creams and nappy disposal bags);
- Female sanitary items sufficient and essential for the flight, if unboxed (e.g. tampons, pads, towels and wipes) tissues (unboxed) and/or handkerchiefs;
- Keys (but no electrical key fobs)

All passengers must be hand searched, and their footwear and all the items they are carrying must be X-ray screened.

Pushchairs and walking aids must be X-ray screened, and only airport-provided wheelchairs may pass through the screening point.

In addition to the above, all passengers boarding flights to the USA and all the items they are carrying, including those acquired after the central screening point, must be subjected to secondary search at the boarding gate. Any liquids discovered must be removed from the passenger.

BAA wish to stress that these are precautionary measures. During the next few days airports will be extremely busy, therefore only those intending to fly should come to the airport. Passengers are also asked to use public transport to get to and from the airport wherever possible.

Passengers are asked to be patient while these additional security measures are put in place. Delays are likely and passengers are therefore asked to allow extra time for their journey.”

Two full-blown crises, in Lebanon and Iraq, are merging into a single emergency. A chain reaction could spread quickly almost anywhere between Cairo and Bombay. Turkey is talking openly of invading northern Iraq to deal with Kurdish terrorists based there. Syria could easily get pulled into the war in southern Lebanon. Egypt and Saudi Arabia are under pressure from jihadists to support Hezbollah, even though the governments in Cairo and Riyadh hate that organization. Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of giving shelter to al Qaeda and the Taliban; there is constant fighting on both sides of that border. NATO’s own war in Afghanistan is not going well. India talks of taking punitive action against Pakistan for allegedly being behind the Bombay bombings. Uzbekistan is a repressive dictatorship with a growing Islamic resistance.

The only beneficiaries of this chaos are Iran, Hezbollah, al Qaeda and the Iraqi Shi’ite leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who last week held the largest anti-American, anti-Israel

demonstration in the world in the very heart of Baghdad, even as 6,000 additional US troops were rushing into the city to “prevent” a civil war that has already begun.

This combination of combustible elements poses the greatest threat to global stability since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, history’s only nuclear superpower confrontation. The Cuba crisis, although immensely dangerous, was comparatively simple: It came down to two leaders and no war. In 13 days of brilliant diplomacy, John F. Kennedy induced Nikita Khrushchev to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba.

Kennedy was deeply influenced by Barbara Tuchman’s classic, *The Guns of August*, which recounted how a seemingly isolated event 92 summers ago – an assassination in Sarajevo by a Serb terrorist – set off a chain reaction that led in just a few weeks to World War I. There are vast differences between that August and this one. But Tuchman ended her book with a sentence that resonates in this summer of crisis: “The nations were caught in a trap, a trap made during the first thirty days out of battles that failed to be decisive, a trap from which there was, and has been, no exit.”

Preventing just such a trap must be the highest priority of American policy. Unfortunately, there is little public sign that the president and his top advisers recognize how close we are to a chain reaction, or that they have any larger strategy beyond tactical actions.

Under the universally accepted doctrine of self-defense, which is embodied in Article 51 of the UN Charter, there is no question that Israel has a legitimate right to take action against a group that has sworn to destroy it and had hidden some 13,000 missiles in southern Lebanon. In these circumstances, American support for Israel is essential, as it has been since the time of Truman; if Washington abandoned Jerusalem, the very existence of the Jewish state could be jeopardized, and the world crisis whose early phase we are now in would quickly get far worse. The United States must continue to make clear that it is ready to come to Israel’s defense, both with American diplomacy and, as necessary, with military equipment.

But the United States must also understand, and deal with, the wider consequences of its own actions and public statements, which have caused an unprecedented decline in America’s position in much of the world and are provoking dangerous new anti-American coalitions and encouraging a new generation of terrorists. American disengagement from active Middle East diplomacy since 2001 has led to greater violence and a decline in US influence. Others have been eager to fill the vacuum. (Note the sudden emergence of France as a key player in the current burst of diplomacy.)

American policy has had the unintended, but entirely predictable, effect of pushing our enemies closer together. Throughout the region, Sunnis and Shi’ites have put aside their hatred of each other just long enough to join in shaking their fists – or doing worse – at the United States and Israel. Meanwhile, in Baghdad, our troops are coming under attack by both sides – Shi’ite militias and Sunni insurgents. If this continues, the US presence in Baghdad has no future.

President Bush owes it to the nation, and especially the troops who risk their lives every day, to reexamine his policies. For starters, he should redeploy some US troops into the safer northern areas of Iraq to serve as a buffer between the increasingly agitated Turks and the restive, independence-minded Kurds.

Given the new situation, such a redeployment to Kurdish areas and a phased drawdown elsewhere – with no final decision yet as to a full withdrawal from Iraq – is fully justified. At the same time, we should send more troops to Afghanistan, where the situation has deteriorated even as the Pentagon is reducing US troop levels – which is read in the region as a sign of declining US interest in Afghanistan.

On the diplomatic front, the United States cannot abandon the field to other nations (not even France!) or the United Nations. Every secretary of state from Henry Kissinger to Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright negotiated with Syria, including those Republican icons George Shultz and James Baker. Why won't this administration follow suit, in full consultation with Israel at every step? This would clearly be in Israel's interest. Instead, administration officials refuse direct talks and say publicly, "Syria knows what it must do" – a statement that denies the very point of diplomacy.

The same is true of talks with Iran, although these would be more difficult. Why has the world's leading nation stood aside for over five years and allowed the international dialogue with Tehran to be conducted by Europeans, the Chinese and the United Nations? And why has that dialogue been restricted to the nuclear issue – vitally important, to be sure, but not as urgent at this moment as Iran's sponsorship and arming of Hezbollah and its support of actions against US forces in Iraq?

Containing the violence must be Washington's first priority. Finding a stable and secure solution that protects Israel must follow. Then must come the unwinding of America's disastrous entanglement in Iraq in a manner that is not a complete humiliation and does not lead to even greater turmoil. All of this will take sustained high-level diplomacy – precisely what the American administration has avoided in the Middle East. Washington has, or at least used to have, leverage over the more moderate Arab states; it should use it again, in the closest consultation with and on behalf of Israel.

And we must be ready for unexpected problems that will test us; they could come in Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, Jordan or even Somalia – but one thing seems sure: They will come. Without a new, comprehensive strategy based on our most urgent national security needs – as opposed to a muddled version of Wilsonianism – this crisis is almost certain to worsen and spread.

Remarkable that the Washington Post would include an article that didn't directly say, *It's all Bush's fault.*

It's only 12 days to August 22. Crap, I don't have time to buy the M1A. The beans were good but I should have let them cook 1 more hour to further soften the skins. About 2½ cups would have been just right. I'm writing it down so maybe I'll remember that. We did

something wrong with the beans, nobody got gas. The only decision I have to make on the Loaded M1A is the stock and I'm going with the synthetic to save \$100. I was up late again and knew about the London arrests before I went to bed. That's why it's earlier.

The more I think about it, the more I agree with Newt. Sharon just got home and said she saw a B-2 flying over Plant 42. Some of the repairs they make to them are done here so maybe that's why it was in Palmdale. So now, I've said it: 1. the 4 horsemen are riding; and, 2. WW III has already started. There are 2 sides in the war, Islam and everybody else. Islam has allies, of course. We have allies, too, Israel and the United Kingdom (Commonwealth of Nations).

The Commonwealth encompasses a population of approximately 1.975 billion people in 53 countries, making up about 31% of the world's population. The total GDP is about US\$7.8 trillion (about 16% of the total world economy). The land area of the Commonwealth nations is about 12.1 million square miles (about 21% of the total world land area).

The four largest Commonwealth nations by population are India at 1,100 million, Pakistan at 159 million, Bangladesh at 141 million, and Nigeria at 137 million.

The three largest Commonwealth nations by area are Canada at 3.8 million square miles, Australia at 3.0 million square miles, and India at 1.2 million square miles.

The four largest economies are India at US\$2,600 billion, the United Kingdom at US\$1,500 billion, Canada at US\$930 billion, and Australia at US\$520 billion (on a purchasing power parity basis, from the CIA World Factbook 2005).

The largest military spenders are the United Kingdom at US\$32 billion, Australia at US\$18 billion, India at US\$12 billion, and Canada at US\$7.9 billion. The Commonwealth of Nations is NOT a military alliance.

Tuvalu is the smallest member, with only 11,000 people. The United Kingdom is a political union made up of four constituent countries: England, Scotland, and Wales on the island of Great Britain, and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom also has several overseas territories, including Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. The Crown has a relationship with the dependencies of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands; they are part of the British Islands but not part of the United Kingdom and are a possession of the Crown. A constitutional monarchy, the United Kingdom has close relationships with fifteen other Commonwealth Realms that share the same monarch – Queen Elizabeth II – as head of state. Anyway, we can always count on Australia, and these days, with a real government, maybe we can count on Canada.

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One thing I'm forced to do is take advice. Vietnam Era vet or not, I've never been in combat. So, while I have opinions about this or that rifle, etc., I've never carried a rifle except in Basic Training, for a few hours. One very good source of information is my younger son. He's been to Korea, Kosovo and Iraq. My older son has been to Navy ET School and was stationed on the USS Kalamazoo, until he got out of the Navy, early. I know how I'm going to acquire the weapons I want but I'm not allowed to explain it. The reason is very simple; the weapons will not be California legal. They may start out that way, BUT, they won't stay that way. Then again, I won't do anything to them I can't undo quickly. I'd never consider making them a full auto weapon, for example.

If someone wants to go off on a tangent and act the fool, it's ok with me. However, I do believe the terrorist plot they foiled today was real and that doesn't make me a sheeple, just more careful. It also makes me want my M1A rifle all the more. And yes, I ate beans for lunch, we cooked too many and I don't want to throw them away. Supper was micro waved Salisbury steaks and rice. I didn't eat the rice, it's better with Chinese food and chili. I made open faced hot beef sandwiches with them, for some reason, we don't have any instant potatoes.

One thread in the general patriot discussion suggests that there was no plot to blow up airplanes and that everything bad is Bush's fault. Acknowledging that Bush has made mistakes, I can't believe he's behind this stuff. Apparently the British police seized 2 'martyr tapes'. I wonder how George got the guys to make the tapes claiming credit for knocking the planes down. How many people were killed on 9/11? If they knocked down 10 planes, they could have killed the same number or more. I'm not sure that it was an al Qaeda plot, but I believe that may have supplied some funding.

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That's the end of my Joe Friday bit (just the facts, ma'am). Now it's time to have *The Happening*. You remember that don't you? It starred Anthony Quinn and Faye Dunaway when she was young (26). We could vote on whether to have an earthquake or a nuclear war but I'm not a Democracy, more of a Republic. True, it's a representative republic, but I only represent me. The vote is over and it has been decided, film at 11.

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TATP itself is a white powder made up of crystals that form when acetone and hydrogen peroxide are mixed together, usually with a catalyst added to speed the chemical reactions. But there is no need to wait for the crystals. Acetone and peroxide is "an exceedingly reactive mixture" that can be easily detonated by an electrical spark, said Neal Langerman, president of Advanced Chemical Safety, a consulting company in San Diego.

Acetone is easy to obtain, hydrogen peroxide somewhat harder. The hydrogen peroxide solution sold in pharmacies is too dilute, only 3 percent, to be used in an explosive. Stronger hydrogen peroxide of 30 percent concentration can be ordered from chemical

supply companies, but concentrations strong enough to generate a powerful explosion, about 70 percent, are not readily available, Dr. Langerman said.

That was most likely what the terrorists back in August were using, I read a report that their bomb was peroxide based. There are several different types of liquid or gel based explosives. Various news reports mention a peroxide-based explosive. Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide is one such peroxide-based high explosive in the form of a colorless, oily liquid at room temperature and pressure. It is related to acetone peroxide which is an old standby for various terrorist organizations because of the fact that it can be made from fairly common household items. The FBI-DHI stated that two peroxide-based liquid explosive could be used – triacetone triperoxide (TAPT) or hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMDT).

Terrorists could assemble bombs with these chemicals. Peroxide-based liquid explosives “are sensitive to heat, shock, and friction, can be initiated simply with fire or electrical charge, and can also be used to produce improvised detonators,” “For example, TATP or HMTD may be placed in a tube or syringe body in contact with a bare bulb filament, such as that obtained from inside a Christmas tree light bulb, to produce an explosion.” The explosives planned to be used in the 2006 transatlantic terrorist plot allegedly consisted of a combination of hydrogen peroxide and sulphuric acid.

It’s on the web, don’t take my word for it. I remember making some kind of iodine compound in high school chemistry class that was so sensitive that when it dried almost anything could set it off. More than one school locker has been blown up by that stuff. I took chemistry in the 1959-1960 school year (junior year). I didn’t want to know how to make it again. I’ll also bet that starting August 11, 2006, it became very difficult to get 70% hydrogen peroxide. I wouldn’t know, I didn’t try. What I did instead was wait patiently for the money to come. When it came, I bought 10 20-round magazines from Ammoman and got someone to buy me the two rifles I mentioned. I still had money so I bought 14 30-round PMI magazines for my Mini-14. I also had a Butler Creek folding stock and a flashhider that’s kept in place with a roll pin.

The M1A excluding magazines was \$1,750. The Mini-14 and magazines left me with enough money to buy the 5 pistol mags. I still needed 2 chest packs for the magazines, 2 rifle stock magazine pouches for the extra magazine and 2 used leather GI holsters. Plus, 3 other guns, the 590A1 shotgun, the PT1911 and that stinking Ruger 10/22. Then I had the ammunition problem. I negotiated for ammo as my Christmas present. Wait, it can’t happen yet, I don’t have any ammo!

So how do I do this? Each chest pouch is set up with empty magazines and I have the loaders that work with stripper clips. I keep 2 magazines loaded for each rifle and the remainder empty. They can be quickly loaded with the loaders and stripper clips, but I remember to rotate the magazines every Sunday. I kept ½ of the .45 mags loaded and switch them over weekly. Which explains why I stopped writing on weekends.

The garage shelves are now full and we're ready for whatever. To protect things packed in glass, they're on the bottom shelf and packed in boxes. The shelves are anchored to the garage walls. I replaced the Coleman stove generators and replaced the lanterns. We added another 12 gallons of kerosene and are up to 25 gallons of Coleman fuel. I even found new wicks for our 5 kerosene lamps and a pair of kerosene lanterns. I found source for wicking and bought a 33' roll.

Telling you where I find things is just a bad habit, but sometimes it takes a lot of searching to find things. When did WW II start? In 1937 Japan started the Second World War in Asia by invading China. However, the start of the war is usually dated from when Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party led Germany to invade Poland in September 1939, and Britain and France declared war on Germany. In 1940, Germany conquered most of Western Europe but failed to subdue Britain. In 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union, where massive battles went on continuously until the end of the war.

It started slowly and didn't directly involve the US. At that time, we were just recovering from the Great Depression and our only involvement was to provide aid to Great Britain. They called it the Lend-Lease Program. Lend-Lease was a major US program 1940-1945 which enabled the United States to provide Britain, Russia, China and other Allied nations with vast amounts of war matériel. Unlike the loans of World War I, the transfers were gifts that were not to be repaid. It began in March 1941, nine months before the US officially entered the war in December of 1941. Lend-Lease came on the heels of Cash and Carry, following correspondence between Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt on the economic status of Britain and their inability to pay for and transport materials as they once did. It ended soon after V-J Day, on 02Sep45. This program was the first large step away from American isolationism and towards international involvement since the end of WWI.

That was a big mistake, our getting involved – we eventually became the world's policeman and the most powerful military power on the planet. It is obvious to all that the French didn't appreciate the help; but, they never do. We liked Ike and the Frenchmen liked Charles de Gaulle. The main doctrinal component of Gaullism is a desire for France's independence from foreign power, but there are also social and economic components in some forms of the philosophy.

The main axis of de Gaulle's international policies was national independence, with, as some practical consequences, some degree of opposition to international organizations such as NATO or the European Economic Community. The basic tenets were that France should not have to rely on any foreign country for its survival (thus the creation of the French nuclear deterrent) and that France should refuse subservience to any foreign power, be it the US or the USSR. One can also cite the policies of grandeur – that is, the insistence that France is a major power in the world scene and the establishment of military and economic forces to back this claim. In that respect, Gaullism significantly influenced the Foreign policy of France in the following decades, even though Gaullists were no longer in power.

It was strange how when WW III started, it was the US and France – we were the two free countries who were in charge of the debate. At the time, they called WW III *The War on Terrorism*. Many people overlook our trigger. For example, WW II had been on-going in the Pacific for 4 years and our only involvement was the Flying Tigers and his highness Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines. Stupidly, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, think WTC circa 07Dec41. The US declared war on Japan and that nut job in Germany declared war on the US. Our only involvement in the European Theatre had been Lend-Lease. Any parallels? More than a few, I think!

Now you see why I frequently remind you, *Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it*. The big difference this time is we have nuclear weapons and even the terrorists are smart, they were going to bring down 10 planes with hydrogen peroxide and acetone. I still say, *What goes up must come down*. You won't find me on a plane anytime soon. Flying is dangerous, I was run over by a taxi at LAX back in '84 and I wasn't even flying, until he hit me. LAX can't even keep its equipment up these days.

Anyway, the UN dragged its feet getting a Resolution to end the clash in Lebanon and that went to Hell. Over in Iraq, the Insurgency picked up a head of steam and we were damned if we did and damned if we didn't. Iran got mad and cut off its oil supply, right in the middle of our trying to repair Prudhoe Bay. We started to suck out the replacement 400,000 barrels a day from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, not a big deal. Until Hugo Chávez decided he like Iran more than us – they gave him a medal – and gas went to five bucks a gallon.

I apologized to Dr. J, but told him I could only come once a quarter, it cost too much to drive to Northridge. We had the shelves stocked although I could tell Sharon's heart wasn't in it 100%. We had a freezer full of meat, a 7kw, not 5kw, standby generator and 3, not 2, drums of stabilized gasoline, fortunately bought for only \$3.799 a gallon. That's not a lot, only 165 gallons, but it was a start. I bought a pair of drum racks from Northern Tool and had room for one more drum. I got the drum, the valve and the vent/fill pipe but the gas was almost unaffordable, \$25 for a 5-gallon can. Every time she filled the car, she bought another 5-gallon can of gas. Each fill up was running right at \$75. I carefully measure out enough PRI-G to preserve that gas, it was liquid gold at this point.

Obviously, Derek was back from the sandbox. They had come out for Christmas of 2006. He was involved with my gun choices because of the straw part. Besides, I wasn't going to live forever and they would be his. He sharpened Sharon's knives and took Rambo II & III back with him. He could keep Rambo III and use it as a club until he got it sharpened. The electrical bill was down from the \$700 plus a month it ran during the summer and that left enough money to get the remainder of my guns and the ammo I wanted. Hell, I even had a wheelchair ramp. Life was good and getting better. Fleataxi was right; I need a scope or a sight of some kind on my rifles that didn't require good eyesight. I went with Aimpoint, at roughly \$100+ per rifle, averaged out.

I had CA legal and illegal magazines and the only real problem with the Loaded model I had was the muzzle brake. If it ever got to the point where someone wanted to give me a hard time about how the M1A and Mini-14 were set up, it would mean TSHTF and there'd be more important things to worry about. I hated the muzzle brake and wanted to replace it with a flashhider with a bayonet lug, but didn't. I went with the Mossberg 590A1. I don't hunt anyway but I could make my weapons CA illegal.

It was cold out and I dressed warm and walked Missy the 4 blocks around the housing tract in an effort to rebuild the leg muscle I'd lost. The idea being that I wasn't much good as a wheelchair survivalist. It was 2 days after Sharon's 60th birthday, Valentine's Day, 2007 when the ground shook. It was like riding the worst roller coaster I'd ever been on. I don't like roller coasters, BTW. I was sleeping soundly, but the closet doors started to rattle and my bed began to rock and roll.

Darn, it lasted and lasted and lasted. I was beginning to think we were in Fairbanks in '64 before it stopped. I could hear the breaking glass and had no idea where my combat boots were, probably Amy's closet. Not! I found my fake cowboy boots and a pair of socks and got dressed before I gave a thought to leaving my bedroom.

Sharon asked, "Are you ok?"

"I'm putting real shoes on; you'd better do the same. Get dressed; it won't be long before we get the first aftershock."

"The lights are out."

"I'm sure that fancy earthquake valve you bought shut the gas off too. Let me get dressed and I'll light some lamps and start the generator."

"How much gas do we have?"

"220 gallons in drums and 7 gallons in the tank plus whatever you have in the car's tank."

"I just filled up and I filled the gas can."

"Fine, 230 gallons plus what's in the car. It's a shame we don't have any firewood, it's going to get cold with the gas off."

"Didn't I tell you, I bought a rick?"

"That's 1/3 of a cord, what they call a face cord, but it's a start. Get dressed and I'll bring in an armload and start a fire in the fireplace."

"Most of the stuff in the living room that wasn't anchored tipped over."

“That’s why we installed anchors, Sharon. Get Amy and the kids dressed, it’s going to get cold soon. I’ll start the generator and run the extension cords to the refrigerators and freezer. You check the house with your MagLite and see if you think we can stay in it.”

She hadn’t told me she’d bought a rick of firewood and stacked it behind the shed on the concrete, but I got dressed, got my MagLite and found it. I got Amy to help me bring in an armload and use the crescent wrench to remove the gas log. We then started a fire, lit the kerosene lamps (only 2) and waited for the first aftershock. I checked the outside of the house and there were cracks in the stucco, but it appeared the house might stand. At least until the first aftershock.

I have several transistor radios and lots of batteries, I turned one on and asked Amy to try and find a radio station. I checked line 2 on my desk phone and there was no dial tone so that meant that we lost the internet.

“I thought you said you bought a rick of firewood.”

“I did.”

“Well, you got a pile 8’ long, 4’ deep and almost 4’ high, I do believe you got a full cord.”

“Is that good?”

“It’s not bad. We’ll have to get the Coleman stoves out and set them up on a table. I bring in one jug of kerosene and we’ll have fuel for the lamps.”

“Where do you want the lamps?”

“Wherever we have a table lamp, plus one in the bathroom and one in the kitchen. That will leave a couple for walking around or to lend Patti. Amy, go check on Chris and Patti and see if they’re ok.”

“When?”

“Now would be good, you don’t have anything else to do.”

“I’m still looking for a radio station.”

“If you haven’t found one by now, you won’t; go check on Chris and Patti. Ask her if she needs a can of kerosene for her lamps and ask Chris if he has gas for his generator.”

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I loaned Chris the extra 5 gallons of gasoline and 2 gallons of kerosene. He loaned me one of the racing radios and one scanner. I put the radio on the charger and connected it to the extension cord for the kitchen refrigerator. I left it on and on channel 1. The old

generator I bought a few years back was mounted in his pickup and he could run it to keep their refrigerator cold. He had more extension cords than I had, so I borrowed one of his heavy duty cords and the 3-way plug I'd bought him when I was involved in racing.

Dick had a generator in his camping trailer, so he was good for now and I had told Lance more than once to get a 5kw standby generator and a drum of gas. I know for a fact that he'd bought an extra handgun after they'd had a bit of trouble. I had plenty of ammo if he needed it, both 9mm and .45ACP. I had 500 rounds of each, in Gold Dot plus another 500 rounds of each in Lawman. I also had something he didn't have, a totally illegal Mini-14 and several of the politically incorrect and totally CA illegal 30 round magazines I had shipped to Derek which he was kind enough to bring me at Christmas time. I didn't tell you about the tricked out Mini-14 because I didn't want my big mouth to get me in trouble with any PC squirrels from CA.

That, of course, was an oxymoron, or I thought so until I read what someone wrote when he went on a tangent in the General Patriot Discussion back last August. Lance asked and I loaned him the Mini-14, magazines and a couple of battle packs of 5.56mm ammo and 2 boxes of 9mm Gold Dot. He had taken my advice and had a 5kw generator from Harbor Freight and one drum of stabilized unleaded. He could run an extension cord to Dave Lucky for his refrigerator.

You always thought my neighbors were creations of my fiction, but they weren't. Neither was Ronald McDonald, he showed up with 2 5-gallon gas cans. The dummy had a 2,800 watt standby genset but only 10 gallons of gas. On the other hand, he did have a .375 H&H magnum rifle and he was, after all, my AA sponsor. Besides he had lots of 5.56 ammo so I traded him some for 10 gallons of gas at \$5 a gallon. His 5.56mm ammo all came from China-Mart, 50 round boxes of Remington. I traded 2 boxes per gas can and I think he got the better part of the deal. But he was my sponsor, and he did show me his .375 H&H magnum rifle, finally.

Yes, Virginia, MCLS is still in Barstow, but no, we didn't discuss going there, not yet at least. I also gave him 2 gallons of kerosene. In fact I got rid of all of my old kerosene, fixing up my friends and neighbors and myself. Two gallon cans of kerosene will light a lot of lamps, for a while, and Dick went around and turned off everyone's gas valves, because he does, in fact, work for the gas company. It weren't no big deal, he'd already turned off the master valve for Moon Shadows Housing Tract #6.

No hablo español, hence I didn't have to talk to most of our other neighbors, for now. But then, hablan inglés, un poco, unfortunately. I had more gas than Chris, but he had extension cords, although Patti and the neighbors between us didn't get along very well, hence they'd only get 30 minutes of power per 4 hours and I did the same for my neighbors immediately to my east, because they were semi-pleasant and hablan inglés.

Besides, they asked, and I didn't want trouble until I knew whether they were armed. Anyway, it was the Christian thing to do. Besides, Audrey went to school with one of

their daughters and Audrey and Udell sometimes played with their girls. I didn't offer, but they were desperate enough to ask, end of story, for now. What's more, he offered his can of gas for his lawnmower. 2 gallons = 6 hours of power, sort of. But they were Catholic and the last I looked at my St. Joseph's Bible, it counted. Besides Elvia was Cuban and ella habló español muy bueno. It was tit for tat (repayment in kind, as for an injury; retaliation), for now, repayment in kind. Blame the forum, not me, for the apostrophe, it thinks tit is ***, the same as damn is ****, spelled properly, rather narrow minded, since you can post other words.

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Some folks think I am bigoted, as in I have something against (pick a group). I honestly don't, I think that everyone should be able to own one or two. (Inflammatory enough???) We'll call them employees and pay them minimum wage, that's about 10 times as much as they could make in their home country. Unless they live in California, then it's 15 times as much as they could make in Mexico. At one time or another during my unspectacular life, I've probably said the same thing about anyone I had prejudged.

It was the darnest thing you ever saw when one day it occurred to me that I knew better. People are just people, no matter their ethnic origin or gender or age or religion or the other things we prejudge people by. I suppose that was 20 or 25 years ago, but the good news it didn't particularly make me politically correct. For instance I don't much care for homosexuals, or extremists, whether they be far right or far left. You know, the white supremacists and those commie pinkos, LOL.

I lost my job doing what I did so well for giving out what was considered a 'sexually oriented' cartoon. At the time, my employer had a large group of employees who were guilty of sexually harassing their employees. The company I was auditing had a policy, that I violated and I got tossed out on my bum. Next thing you know, I was ordered to get on a plane and fly to the home office, I figured to get chewed out and pull a week or two of suspension for my sin.

I've never been accused of my inability of anticipating what could happen, so I had my resignation typed and in my pocket, just in case. Three hours into a grilling by 2 lawyers who were both playing bad cop, I realized that I was the perfect scapegoat and was nominated to pay for all of the accused employees' sins. Without going into details, I resigned right on the spot and there was nothing they could do to me. It cost, big time, right now my equals still with the agency are making \$85,000 a year. I was 49 years old, and never found another good job. That was my first mistake; the second was I hadn't discussed it with the wife before I did it.

Survival Story – Chapter 6

Dumb, very dumb. I have no idea what brought that up, probably because our house was as big a mess as I'd made of my life. Dick, Chris, Dave, Lance and I made a tour of our neighborhood. The 2 story homes were in worse condition than the single story homes. Our patio cover looked like it could collapse at any moment causing Dick to go home and bring back a bag of lag screws so we could reinforce the cover.

We use some premixed concrete to patch the cracks in our 5 homes, eliminating most of the drafts. The tract was built in 1987 and we had reasonable earthquake standards back then so none of the houses came down. The gas lines were connected to the meters with a piece of flexible high pressure hose and Dick could have just as easily turned off the gas at individual meters – he wasn't sure about the main lines and shut off all the gas.

"How much water do you have?"

"Fifty gallons, just what's in my water heater."

"Do you have any bottled water?"

"Some, but not enough for everyone, Chris. How about you?"

"Nope, I'm not a crackpot like you, Gary."

"Do you flush your water heater?"

"Nope."

"Well, I guess that gives you water to flush your toilet."

"I don't think so."

"Why not?"

"The sewer line is busted."

"Chit, what else can happen?"

"Gary, Amy says she has KTPI on the radio, I think you'd better listen."

"What's up?"

"They're giving a damage report."

...Fault let loose from Llano through the Tejon Pass and into the San Joaquin Valley. The rupture is estimated to be about 200km long and the slip ranges from 2 meters in some places up to 5 meters in others, according to the USGS. The duration of the initial shock lasted some 150 seconds and the Moment of Magnitude is estimated at 8.2. The greatest damage occurred between Llano and Lancaster.

Most homes within 1 mile of the Fault collapsed or suffered enough damage that they are being red tagged. The Palmdale Water District issued a statement indicating that it will take anywhere from weeks to months to have water and sewer service fully restored in Palmdale. Southern California Gas Company indicated they had breaks in several major feeder lines requiring up to a month to repair. The other major utility, Southern California Edison lost over a dozen towers and gave no estimate of when power would be completely restored. AT&T said service would be restored within 2 weeks.

The Governor declared the entire region a disaster area and asked President Bush to declare a federal disaster. Available units of the California National Guard as well as units from Nevada and Arizona have been activated.

In east Palmdale, drinking water and food is available in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 47th Street East and Avenue S. In central Palmdale, There are 2 locations, one in McAdams Park on 30th Street East between Avenue R and Palmdale Boulevard and the second in the Civic Center Parking lot. On the west side, one area has been set up in the Antelope Valley Mall parking lot near the corner of 10th Street West and Rancho Vista (Avenue P).

Ice, water and government rations are available to residents presenting a picture ID showing a Palmdale residence. If your license doesn't show a Palmdale address, please present a utility bill and a picture ID in a matching name disclosing your residence.

Persons requiring electricity to power necessary medical equipment will be dealt with on an individual basis. The LA County Sheriff's Department Deputies and volunteers will be going door-to-door to identify those needs. A small supply of generators and fuel is available either on an individual basis or a neighborhood basis depending upon the need. If you have power, please contact your neighbors and see if they require your assistance. Persons sharing their generators will be supplied with fuel. If your need is immediate, report to the Palmdale or Lancaster Sheriff's Station to request assistance.

A dusk to dawn curfew remains in effect until further notice.

The announcement, which came around 4pm gave us little time to prepare for the night. The first aftershock had been M_w 6 something, enough to rattle windows and bring down several more homes but none in our tract. Moment is a physical quantity proportional to the slip on the fault times the area of the fault surface that slips; it is related to the total energy released in the EQ. The moment can be estimated from seismograms (and also from geodetic measurements). The moment is then converted into a number

similar to other earthquake magnitudes by a standard formula. The result is called the moment magnitude (M_w). The moment magnitude provides an estimate of earthquake size that is valid over the complete range of magnitudes above $M=3$, a characteristic that was lacking in other magnitude scales.

The housing tract needed ~ 800kw for full power. It was winter and we didn't have gas so you could probably cut that down to 400kw, all of the homes had fireplaces, but not everyone had wood. And then, Sharon mentioned the wood we had to Patti. Patti sent Matt down and he hauled enough back to keep their home heated for a week. Lance must have seen Matt and he asked if we could spare some wood.

I told him, "Sure, do you think you'll be able to replace it later on?"

"Do you know anyone who has wood?"

"I didn't buy it, Sharon did. You can ask her. Most likely whoever it was has sold out by now. The only place I've seen firewood stacked is where we get off 14 for Balboa Blvd. when I go to the doctor."

"I'll ask Sharon then. What did you put in your window?"

"The office window?"

"Yes."

"That's a piece of road plate held in place by 2x4s. I can sit in my wheelchair and rest my rifle on the 2x4 on top. I don't want to mar the rifle so I put a piece of form on top of that."

"Do you really think it will come down to defending our homes?"

"No Lance, I don't. This is just another housing tract that's no different than any other. It's not really an affluent neighborhood like on the west side. That said, I'd rather have the protection in place and not need it than the opposite. Sharon, where did you buy the firewood?"

"Where? I just called a phone number from the yellow pages. I don't know for sure where he was from, Littlerock, I think."

"Do you have a name?"

"I can look in the checkbook, hang on a minute, I'll have to find the pad of used checks."

We always used duplicate checks, in case we forgot to stub a check. Sharon had gotten very careful about keeping those in one place so she could find them later. This wasn't our first earthquake either. We moved to LA in '82 and the first one that really got our

attention was the Whittier Narrows Quake on 1Oct87. We moved a month later, to Palmdale. We're still debating the pros and cons of that move. Then, on 17Jan94, Northridge shook me out of bed. That's when I learned to keep an ear open for the closet door rattling. In between, was the Landers Quake, M_W 7.3 on 28Jun92, and the Hector Mine earthquake M_W 7.1 on 16Nov99, but I didn't feel it at all. Interesting, Whittier was only M_W 5.9 and Northridge M_W 6.7.

This was the fourth destructive earthquake to occur in California in 23 years. The first was the M_W 6.6 San Fernando (Sylmar) Quake on 9Feb71, affecting the same area in 1971; the second was the M_W 6.9 (Richter magnitude 7.1), 1989 Loma Prieta Quake south of San Francisco on 17Oct89; the third was the M_W 6.5 Coalinga Earthquake on 2May83. The 1994 event is the most damaging earthquake to strike the United States since the M_W 7.8 San Francisco Quake of 18Apr06. In terms of property damage, the earthquake is also one of the worst natural disasters in US history, comparable to Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

◦

Despite unusually hot, dry weather across much of the Corn Belt this summer, US farmers are poised to harvest nearly 11 billion bushels of corn, the third-largest crop on record, and almost 3 billion bushels of soybeans, the government said Friday.

A big corn crop is welcome news for farmers who have battled drought conditions in parts of Iowa, but it's expected to depress market prices, the US Department of Agriculture said.

The agency trimmed a dime off its price forecast for corn in the marketing year that begins Sept. 1, projecting a national average price of \$2.35 per bushel. Even so, that would be 18 percent higher than the national average price of \$1.99 per bushel expected in the current marketing year. (Now you know the price of corn in Iowa.)

◦

Meanwhile here we sat in Palmdale a day after the big one and like a darned fool, I was sharing our supplies. So far that had only been gasoline, some firewood, one weapon and some ammo. You can go a long time on the amount of kerosene and Coleman fuel I had in the shed. A cord of firewood would keep us warm if we didn't share it. I figured, hell, that's our disaster and FEMA will show up in a couple of weeks and we'll be ok. Like John points out on BuildanArk.com the folks in New Orleans weren't prepared. They must not have cared for MREs either; there are a lot of them on EBay. At least we didn't need ice (yet).

The real danger was the aftershocks. If you made it through the earthquake more or less intact, your house could still fall down when one of those hit. I didn't patch the cracks from the Northridge earthquake until we had the stucco painted. They were very small and didn't go all the way through the stucco. This time they open up good and so

did the ones on the other houses. Fortunately, we had 4 gallons of paint left over, I could paint over the patches and nobody would know. Chris said I was stupid to texture the repairs but he didn't know about the paint.

Say, is there a place for homes like there is for cars? You what I mean, the place that gives you the history of the car. Having spent a fortune on putting on new shingles and painting the place I wouldn't want the house to be classified as a lemon. These shingles weren't white, but they were as close as you could come. If I could find the white paint, I'd even finish painting the eve when it got warmer. The Northridge Quake came on Martin Luther King Day, did earthquakes have a Holiday calendar? I hadn't bought Sharon a Valentine, but I don't really think she cared.

Did I tell you I wrote Arnold last fall? There are some really stupid bills that he might have to veto. If he doesn't, all guns and ammo will all but become illegal in California, AB352 (Microstamping) and AB2714 (Interstate Ammo Sale). The good thing is its only 5 hours to Vegas. I told him I'd vote for him anyway but I sure hope he vetoes those bills.

"Did they say anything on the radio about FEMA?"

"Amy didn't say anything about it if they did. We should be seeing National Guard troops pretty soon Chris. What did Dick want?"

"Propane. He's planning on staying in his trailer and needed more propane."

"Nine gallons won't get him very far."

"Dave had 2 bottles and Chris had 1. He said he already had 2 bottles and that gives him a total of 7. He said than rather than burn up all of the firewood, Dave and he are going to stay in the trailer."

"We should have enough firewood to last us until it gets warmer. Since you bought a full cord, we can give Patti and Lance each a rick. I suppose that until the Guard shows up, it will be up to Lance and me to make sure we don't get any looters."

"We won't get any looters. Anyone who needs anything will hit the Wal-Marts, grocery stores, drug stores and places that have a lot of what they need. They won't try to hit the neighborhoods before the Guard gets here."

"Then why did you put that piece of boiler plate in your window?"

"I could be wrong."

"Yes you could. But if you have to shoot someone, you're going to jail. This is a retreat state, remember?"

“How could I forget? We may end up being out that .22 Saturday Night Special if it comes to that, I’ll use it as throw down.”

“They’ll trace it.”

“It won’t do them any good, Dad told me he bought it from a private party without paperwork. I don’t think we’ll have a problem unless the house falls down. You realize that if this had happened 6 months ago, we would have been up the creek without a paddle, don’t you?”

“I got tired of you making lists. And then Amy lost her food stamps and I decided that maybe you were right about having some food on the shelf. I wanted the freezer so we could buy meat on sale and save money on food. I thought getting that generator was nuts but when I realized we have 3 refrigerators and a freezer and you told me they needed that much power to start, I figured we might as well get one big enough to run them all.”

“Did you find the camping gear in the shed? There a coffee pot in that box so we can boil coffee.”

“I’ve been running it off the extension cord for the kitchen refrigerator. Is that ok for now?”

“Given the choice, go ahead.”

“What do you mean?”

“I can get by on coffee and Kool’s. I don’t suppose you have a couple of cartons I don’t know about do you?”

“No. How many do you have left?”

“3.”

“Costco is closed. Patti went there to get some things and they were locked up tight with a guard on the door.”

“Are the streets open?”

“Some are. If you think help will be here soon, I can give her a little of what we have.”

“You’d better, seeing all the things she’s done for us. Tell her we’ll keep the meat in our freezer until she needs it, Chris doesn’t have much gas.”

“If the Guard is going to be here soon, can’t we loan him enough?”

“Not more than 40 gallons, they’ll just have to empty out their refrigerator. We don’t know how much we can get and it’s going to have to be divided at least 3 or 4 ways. Ron will probably be back looking for more gas and I can’t really say no to him.”

“Do they need food?”

“He didn’t ask for any, but when he comes back for more gas, I’ll ask.”

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“Hey partner, can I get another 10 gallons?”

“Yeah. How are you guys on food?”

“Well, we don’t have a lot; you know how Lyn usually shops 3-4 times a week, how about you?”

“We have enough for about 90 days. Why don’t you bring Linda back and she can pick out enough to cover you until the Guard pulls in?”

“Show me what you have. Beans? Rice? Canned vegetables? Do you have any steak?”

“I don’t have what you like, but yes, we have steak.”

“What do I like?”

“Tri-tip steak.”

“What do you have?”

“Round steak, sirloin and club steak.”

“What’s a club steak?”

“It’s also called a Delmonico – a small steak from the short loin of beef.”

“Good?”

“It’s from between the Ribeye and the T-Bone. Think bone-in New York Strip.”

“I’ll take those.”

“I owe ya, but I don’t owe ya that much Ron. We can give you 50# of meat divided between steaks, roasts, ground beef, pork and chicken. You’d better learn to like beans and rice.”

“How about coffee?”

“We have lots of coffee. What I’m short on is Kool’s.”

“Smoking will kill you.”

“Not smoking will kill everyone else. I’ll trade you the meat, food and 10 gallons of gas for 12 cartons of Kool’s.”

“Where will I find them?”

“I don’t care. Kool’s 100s box.”

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They were still fighting in the Middle East. Hezbollah backed off support of the cease fire, which in turn, forced Lebanon not to send troops south. Here’s what DEBKAFfile said about it:

Lebanon front commander Maj-Gen Benny Gantz said Sunday night the IDF will honor the ceasefire but also defend its troops and Israeli civilians.

Have they been told to hold their fire in line with Israel’s acceptance of the UN resolution 1701 now that the Lebanese government and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah have backtracked?

Prime Minister Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni spent the day explaining that the resolution is good for Israel and praising its unanimous endorsement by the Israeli cabinet Sunday. The PM plans a speech to Knesset Monday lauding the resolution as an Israeli achievement.

DEBKAFfile has learned that Tehran has meanwhile ordered Nasrallah to keep Israel engaged in combat for another 3 to 4 months. As a result, he suddenly backed away from his pledges to France and the Siniora government Saturday to accept a ceasefire and a UNIFIL force in south Lebanon. Nasrallah said he would wait a month to see how Israel’s retreat from the disputed Shabaa Farms was progressing.

At five minutes’ notice, the thunderstruck Lebanese ministers called off their meeting to discuss the deployment of their forces in the south and the disarming of Hezbollah.

DEBKAFfile’s sources are asking how it happened that the 24 Israeli cabinet ministers who voted to accept the UN resolution all fell into the trap devised by Iran and Nasrallah?

This is the situation the night before the ceasefire: Israel says its troops will not be recalled from Lebanon until a beefed up UNIFIL force is in place. However no internation-

al peacekeepers will deploy without a Lebanese military presence. That has now been checked by Nasrallah because the Lebanese army chiefs refuse to deploy south of the Litani if Hezbollah fighters are armed.

Sunday, Hezbollah deployed dozens of its combatants in furious anti-tank missile assaults on IDF tanks and field units along the S. Lebanese front. Fierce clashes raged just north of the Israeli town of Metula and other parts of the former “security strip” on the border. At least 16 Israeli soldiers were injured before noon Sunday.

Sunday, an unprecedented number of rockets – 250 – were also fired into northern Israel by midday. DEBKAF’s military sources say Hezbollah is demonstrating that its ability to subject northern Israel to rocket barrages from S. Lebanon is unimpaired after a month of combat.

Saturday, Israel lost 24 men in action, including 5 crew aboard a Yasur helicopter that Hezbollah shot down.

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I had to trust Ron, I gave him the food and gas and he promised to pay me back in smokes in a day or two. The value of the barter transaction was about \$200, but I didn’t plan to tell the IRS. I figured he’d get Kevin to raid a cigarette store; I really didn’t want to know. He got 10 gallons yesterday and 10 more today, I wasn’t Standard Oil; I couldn’t keep that up for very long.

“Lance take one-third of the wood. Dave and Dick have the propane and I’ll give Chris and Patti the other third. Did you get squared away with the rifle I loaned you?”

“About the same as the M14.”

“Actually, it’s a version of the M14, externally, and uses a gas piston. Don’t flash it around, they’re illegal in California the way I tricked it out. The folding stock, flashhider and 30 round magazines aren’t legal.”

“It’s semi-auto.”

“That doesn’t matter, Lance. It’s a ‘bad looking’ gun; in other words it looks like an assault rifle and this configuration is specifically banned.”

“What about that M14 you have?”

“M1A and it’s illegal because of the national match flashhider. The magazines over 10 rounds are illegal too, so I have both 10 and 20 round mags.”

“What size magazines do you have for your Browning?”

“Fifteen round flush mags from ProMag.”

“The .45?”

“8 rounds. Oops, hold on, there it goes again.”

“That was fairly big.”

“Maybe a Magnitude 4. What are you and Elvia doing for cooking?”

“I have a Coleman propane stove and a 10-gallon bottle of propane. You don’t have any extra oil lamps do you?”

“We could spare 2. I thought you had some.”

“We do, but not enough.”

o

“There you go, 12 cartons, but some are soft packs.”

“It doesn’t really matter, thank you. Where did you find them?”

“I didn’t, Kevin did. Why weren’t you stocked up on smokes?”

“Were you?”

“No, I needed ‘em too. About the only thing I have a lot of is .223 ammo. I suppose you have plenty of that right?”

“I have enough unless there is trouble. The Guard should show up sometime today.”

“KTPI said they were delayed. The Sheriff’s Department is overwhelmed and can’t provide any more Deputies at the moment. Hezbollah turned over the bodies of those 2 Israeli soldiers to Israel, but they hadn’t been dead very long. The missile count is up to something on the order of 10,000 fired by Hezbollah, but they claim they aren’t out.”

Survival Story – Chapter 7

“Yeah, I suspected as much, that cease fire went in place when, 14Aug06? That rag-head running Hezbollah backed down and the Lebanese Cabinet couldn’t meet. It went downhill after that didn’t it?”

The domino theory was first espoused by name by President Eisenhower in an April 7, 1954 news conference, and was originally applied to Indochina. If Communists succeeded in Indochina, Eisenhower argued, local groups would then have the encouragement, material support and momentum to take over Burma, Thailand, Malaya and Indonesia. This would give them a geographical and economic strategic advantage. It would make Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand the frontline defensive states. The loss of regions traditionally within the vital regional trading area of countries like Japan would encourage the frontline countries to politically compromise with communism.

This is not to say, however, that the theory was not recognized. Indeed, Truman hit upon the idea in 1947 with the Truman Doctrine, promising to contribute financial aid to Greece and Turkey following their decimation during WW II, in the hope that this would impede the advancement of communism into Western Europe. In 1954, all of the countries in Southeast Asia had large popular Communist movements and insurgencies within their borders. Eisenhower’s domino theory of 1954 was a specific description of the situation and conditions within Southeast Asia at the time. Eisenhower did not suggest a generalized domino theory as others did afterward.

The domino theory was expounded periodically since 1954 by top US leaders who used it as a justification for expanding military programs throughout the world and more specifically intervention in Southeast Asia. Eisenhower first propped up the French in Indochina and then assisted in the creation of South Vietnam to protect what was considered an important “domino”. The Kennedy administration intervened in Vietnam in the early 1960s to, among other reasons, keep the South Vietnamese “domino” from falling.

Can anyone tell who the Commie SOB, Jonathan with the British accent is (Jonathan Hunt)? He’s the Fox correspondent in Beirut. Who attacked whom? Sure we nuked the Japanese, ever heard of Pearl Harbor? It isn’t the Israelis putting the civilians between them and Hezbollah is it? During WW II, Germany fire-bombed London and Coventry and all sort of places in Great Britain. The Allies responded by fire-bombing the German cities into rubble and/or burning them to the ground. We had real military men in WW II, like “Bombs Away LeMay”. When I was in the Air Force, he was the Chief of Staff (1961-65). There was a man who knew how to use an incendiary bomb and an A-bomb.

It seemed like many correspondents were blaming Israel for Hezbollah and HAMAS kidnapping the Israeli soldiers and killing others. That included MSNBC, FOX and CNN. I didn’t listen to the local news, all of those reporters blamed guns for everything. I can only assume it’s because they don’t understand the function of a trigger on a gun.

o

As far as our surviving the big one, it wasn't a big deal. It was waiting for the National Guard and FEMA to show up that presented the biggest problem. We had earthquake insurance, \$15,000 deductible. Unless there was more wrong with the house than was apparent, none of our loss was covered. Most of the things that got broken were mementos. I knew we could replace every window in the house had they broken, we had gotten an estimate because a while back Sharon wanted to replace the cheap windows with Pella windows.

Ron had their house prepared even better than ours, they lost a couple of thousand dollars' worth of mementos. He had cracks in his stucco but those could be patched with a matching stucco color coat. Linda and he had one up on us, they had a swimming pool. So did our neighbor to the east and they offered water to flush the stools even though the sewer pipes were broken. We took some anyway and used it to wash with after we boiled it. Sharon heated water in a blue granite cold pack canner which didn't give us enough to bathe but did allow us sponge baths.

I don't remember names, including my own on bad days, so I can't tell you their names, but they were fairly nice folks. I traded them pinto beans and rice and one night we got invited to dinner. I was hoping for Chili Rellenos but we got refried beans and pollo con arroz. The beans were ok, but did she have to include the gristle from the chicken legs?

I ran the generator every 4 hours for 30 minutes. As soon as my small refrigerator turned off, I unplugged it and plugged in their extension cord.

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February 17th...

"The National Guard just pulled in."

"Into Palmdale or Moon Shadows?"

"Palmdale, they're over on the Westside, they got hurt pretty bad."

"They were closer to the fault. Did the radio say anything about our getting help?"

"They set up several locations in the city to pass out food and water. Amy said that they suggested bringing anyone who needed medical care to the nearest location."

"And that is?"

"McAdams Park."

“We’d better go pick up more bottled water and some of those MREs. I ride with you and we’ll see how much they’re passing out. If it’s enough, we’ll pass the word and everyone can drive over there and pick some up. I don’t suppose they said anything about getting gas did they.”

“She didn’t say. We should take several people in one vehicle to preserve gas. We only had 230 gallons to begin with and it’s not lasting as well as I had hoped. I don’t understand, Ron, why didn’t people take my advice and stock up on things they’d need if TSHTF? All they had to do was look at the news. DHI said to have at least 3 days food and after Katrina, you would have thought that people would take it seriously. They arrested 3 guys in Michigan last summer for buying too many cell phones. That was stupid; you don’t need 1,000 cell phones to blow up a bridge.

“Wait, I’m not done. If I were a terrorist, I sneak the stuff across the border. For all we know, the terrorists already have. Have you been to Glendale and seen the number of Arabs there? For all we know, some of those people could be terrorists, I mean they don’t wear a sign saying, *I’m Abdul and I’m a terrorist.*”

“Bull Gar-Bear, it won’t go down that way. I tell you how it’s going to happen and mark my words it won’t start here. Iran is the major state behind state sponsored terrorism. Hell, they’re funding and arming everybody in the Middle East who wants to destroy Israel or anything we support. I think it’s personal with them. Their principal arms suppliers are Russia, China and North Korea. No way had they given their good stuff to HAMAS or Hezbollah. One of these days, they’ll attack Israel with missiles and Israel will be forced to nuke them. We don’t want the Genie out of its bottle. If that doesn’t start WW III, the terrorists will come out of hiding and kick our butts.”

“There isn’t much left to destroy in southern California, Ron.”

“It’s not the only place they could attack. They could go after tall buildings in many cities or even the subway system like happened in London in July of 2005. They’re called terrorists for a reason, not because of the damage they do but because of the fear they create.”

“I have a few more websites, but we don’t have internet. I couldn’t copy them all, bro. I don’t play with explosives because I don’t know anything about them. My idea of an explosive is a M67 or a M72.”

“How many of those do you have?”

“None, nada, zip. We could get them at MCLB, Barstow if WW III really happened; otherwise, we couldn’t break into the place. Besides, there are 30,000 vets living in that area so by the time we got there, they’d have the place cleaned out. Ready to go?”

“I ain’t done bitching. I no sooner bring up the subways then CNN gets off its dead Commie butt and does a program called Target USA. I thought they were finally doing a

program on security and problems we had but no, it was just an excuse to beat up President Bush. Not that I think Homeland Security does a good job but identifying targets for the terrorists ain't very smart either."

"They went to Van Nuys Airport for that report, partner. Van Nuys Airport is the world's busiest general aviation airport and the 18th busiest airport in the world. You wouldn't expect the TSA to have security there like they do at LAX. Some guy could buy a Cessna, fill it with explosives and take off from his back 40. You can't guard everything or it wouldn't be a free country anymore. Let's go get the water."

o

"How many in your family?"

"Five."

"Get this guy 6 cases of MREs and 6 bundles of 1 liter water bottles."

"How do you figure?"

"Two meals a day for 5 people for 7 days. One liter of drinking water per person per day."

"You're right on the food, but short on the water. I need at least 35 gallons of drinking water."

"How do you figure?"

"FEMA guidelines say one gallon per person per day. Thirty-five gallons is equal to 132 liters. With 6 liters per bundle, I need 22 bundles."

"Hey Sarge, this idiot wants 22 bundles of water."

"Mister, you can only have enough water for drinking."

"Right, the FEMA guideline is 1 gallon per person per day and I'm getting water for a family of 5 for 7 days."

"Give him 6 bundles. Sorry mister, 6 liters of water per case of MREs."

o

I took what they gave, we still had 2 shelves of 1 liter bottles of water in the garage. Most of the water was used to make coffee, instant milk or cooking. We had used the water in the hot water heater for washing. I didn't intend to eat the MREs anyway, I wasn't that hungry, yet.

Thanks to something Fleataxi said both the rifles had Aimpoint sights, which to my way of thinking beat the heck out of laser sights. The problem with a laser sight was you had to be able to see the dot on the person while the Aimpoint dot just showed you where the rifle hit. Both rifles were sighted in for 250 yards, I figured on being high at 100 and low at 300 and had fired shots to see about how much to adjust my hold.

The fella from Argentina, FerFal, said in most situations you'd have to rely on a handgun more than a rifle. But then in Argentina, you could buy hand grenades on the street, couldn't you? I'm not sure I could throw a hand grenade far enough not to blow myself up anyway. I was expecting Derek at any minute; he told me when he was on leave that if something happened in California, he was pedal to the metal to rescue. That would work unless he told the California Border Guards where he was going.

During the Dust Bowl days, the California Agricultural inspectors had the job of keeping the Okies out. That didn't really work and today, lots of folks in the Big Valley (San Joaquin Valley) have roots in Oklahoma. However, I don't think Barbara Stanwyck ever lived in Stockton where Barkley Ranch was. All of the footage was filmed in the LA area except the time they filmed in Senora, CA northeast of Modesto.

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"I thought your house would be down."

"Nice to see you too, Derek. No it didn't fall down this time and we've had some brutal aftershocks. Which way did you come?"

"I-40 to I-15 to 18 to Palmdale."

"Was the viaduct on 18 still standing?"

"Yeah, did you think it wouldn't?"

"Didn't know. Figured 138 would be closed south of 18. Did you have any trouble getting gas?"

"No, I brought my own. It turned out to be about 1,630 miles and I used both drums of gas. That guy out on the highway had a generator and gas but he wanted \$6 a gallon."

"At Oasis?"

"That's the place."

"Let's have some coffee or a beer if you'd rather. It's left over from Christmas when you were here."

“Sharon, how much cash do we have?”

“Why?”

“We need 4 drums of gas, 220 gallons and its \$6 a gallon.”

“How much is that?”

“\$1,320.”

“How much cash did you get for the gas you provided the others?”

“About \$300, \$5 a gallon, except what I traded for.”

“So you need \$1,000?”

“Do you have it?”

“Yes, I have that and more in my cash reserve fund.”

“What cash reserve fund?”

“I set money aside in case we had problems last summer and couldn’t pay the bills. Why do we need 220 gallons of gas?”

“Derek needs 110-gallons to get home and we need 110-gallons to refill the two empty drums we have.”

“Dad, you’re coming with me!”

“No, we’re not. There’s no way we could get our gas in the back of your pickup plus all of the food and other things we have.”

“Why would you need to take your gas?”

“If we came with you, we’d take Amy’s SUV. It would need as much gas as your pickup. We’d need to rent a trailer to haul all of our stuff. I’m not sure how much Sharon has in her cash reserve fund because I didn’t know she had one.”

I’d agreed to return to Arkansas with Derek if we ever had WW III. This was an earthquake, not a war and our house was still standing. While we didn’t have water and sewer, light or gas, we were getting by and I wasn’t certain that I wanted to leave. I wouldn’t leave behind the gun I loaned Lance and we had to take all the food including the freezer and maybe one refrigerator; which meant taking the generator and enough gas to run it on the trip to Gassville. How were we going to get 3 dogs and 4 cats halfway across the country?

The last news I'd heard on the world situation, the Middle East, was on February 13th and the ceasefire was more or less holding. As a younger man, I'd been well known for my snap decisions and their accuracy. On a good day, I ran 80%, sometimes higher. Now it took me a long time just to make a decision and no matter what I decided, it was usually wrong, according to someone. I did the smart thing, I let Sharon decide. She went with Derek and they filled the gas drums and any extra cans we had. Then they got Amy's SUV and went to U-Haul where she rented a trailer.

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However, there were also problems that cannot wait for long-term solutions but need to be tackled in the near future. North Korea and Iran present acute problems that were discussed above and that need early solutions. It is evident, however, that all countries possessing an enrichment or reprocessing capability are technically able – just like the states that have nuclear weapons – to make nuclear material that can be used in weapons. This is true of Brazil, Germany and Japan.

In Japan, a large plant for the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel will be opened in 2006 and will further increase an already large stockpile of plutonium. To some this is a concern. However, a decision to proceed to use available plutonium for weapons is a matter of political will. Hardly any plant in the world has prepared more thoroughly for the operation of IAEA safeguards than the Japanese reprocessing plant at Aomori.

Other nuclear issues in the Middle East region are related to Israel, which is not a party to the NPT and has significant nuclear-weapon capabilities; operational, unsafeguarded, nuclear activities; and a variety of nuclear-capable delivery systems. As long as the world community continues to postpone these issues, which are evidently linked to the question of peace and security in the region, they will add to the risk of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons and other WMD in the Middle East.

Israel's right to security must be guaranteed, as must the right to security of all other states in the Middle East. In 1995, NPT states parties addressed one vital dimension of this challenge by including the Middle East Resolution in the package deal that led to the indefinite extension of the treaty. This resolution endorsed the goals of the peace process and called for the establishment of 'an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective.' So far, however, the efforts to establish such a zone – a goal that all countries in the region, including Iran and Israel, have long supported – have not led to concrete negotiations.

In 2005 the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. As of April 2006, it has 102 signatories. The Convention requires the domestic criminalization of acts of nuclear terrorism and commits its parties to international cooperation in the prevention, investigation and prosecu-

tion of acts of nuclear terrorism. While offering no panacea, this convention is a significant and welcome achievement. States should proceed to early ratification and implementation.

In January 2006, French President Jacques Chirac warned that:

The leaders of States who would use terrorist means against us, as well as those who would consider using, in one way or another, weapons of mass destruction, must understand that they would lay themselves open to a firm and adapted response on our part. And this response could be a conventional one. It could also be of a different kind.

The UN Charter is generally interpreted as allowing the use of armed force in self-defense by a state that is facing an armed attack or to pre-empt an imminent armed attack. In 2002, however, the United States went beyond this concept of pre-emption and announced that it would reserve the right to use force, including nuclear weapons, to prevent an attack possibly involving nuclear weapons even if the time, place and scale of such WMD attack were uncertain and not imminent.

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“I’m sorry Lance, but we’re leaving, I’ll have to get the rifle back from you.”

“Would you sell it?”

“I would if the price were right.”

“\$1,500 for the rifle, 10 mags and a case of ammo.”

“Well, let me figure it out. $(871 + 119 + 580 = 1,570)$ Sorry, I can’t do it for that. At least not with the ammo in the stripper clips in the bandoleers. If you’ll settle for 1,000 rounds of SS109 packed loose, I can do it. It’s the same ammo, packed loose in the case $(871 + 119 + 249 = 1,239)$.”

I have no idea how many laws I just broke, but to tell the truth, I didn’t care. Lance was a Green Beret officer in Vietnam and in my book; it told me all I needed to know. He counted out the cash and I went after the case off SS109. The deal didn’t include the red dot sight. Derek said if I could find the parts, he’d mount the sight on my replacement Mini-14. He claimed he could sight it in by firing just a few rounds.

Quite obviously, the decision was made and we weren’t far from being east bound and down. Sharon loaned the oil lamps to Patti and Elvia and I divided the kerosene between Chris and Lance. Both men promised to keep a close eye on the house and Derek gave them his number for when the phones were back up. We put the freezer and new refrigerator in the trailer along with the generator and 3 drums of gas. Derek loaded a third drum of gas on his pickup and all of our food and such was divided be-

tween the truck and the trailer. We must have looked like the Beverly Hillbillies pulling out of Palmdale. I rode with Derek and had Udell, Missy and Pyewacket with me.

Amy's SUV was packed. It had Sharon and Amy, Lorrie plus 2 kids, 2 dogs and 3 cats. As far as luggage went, I had my two new pairs of jeans, underwear, half a dozen shirts, shaving kit and my meds. It took Sharon and the girls half a day to decide what to take. This was a family affair, I didn't think it mattered. We spent the first night in Flagstaff, the second in Amarillo and were in Gassville the third night. Along the way, we stopped and refilled tanks using the gas we brought with us. I hadn't been in Gassville before; it was a small town, population just under 2,000. There was one manufacturing plant and a few businesses.

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Out in the real world we were getting news again, although I almost wished I hadn't. France had only sent 2,000 soldiers to Lebanon. If we do have WW III, the first missile should be aimed at Paris. August had come and gone and Iran hadn't agreed with the UN. I rather suspected that the next time Iran hiccupped the Israelis had a surprise for them. From what I could gather from the news, the US was engaged in talks with Russia and China. China supported Iran and Russia was a major arms supplier, our competitors.

I mostly stayed my bedroom at Derek's house, nothing changed, I was just in a different place. Our bank accounts still worked, Wells Fargo's computer is in Oregon and Iowa didn't have an earthquake. I got Derek to take me to wherever I needed to go to get an Arkansas ID card. I wanted to take advantage of the fact that Arkansas was what I called a machinegun state. First things first, I got that darned compensator off my M1A and converted the replacement Mini-14 to a real 'cute' rifle. I had sold Lance my other cute Mini-14 and had to replace it.

Derek found the dealer and I started filling out paperwork. We even went on the web and got the bayonet for the rifle. I gave that to Derek to sharpen. I got Sharon a passport application and we went through the steps to get her one and replace mine with my Gassville, Arkansas address. Meanwhile, I loaded up on Black Hills ammo plus magazines. With no utility bills or other large expenses, other than giving Derek some money each month, this would be my only chance. It also occurred to me that a machinegun state is allowed to sell suppressors.

If you took time to read BuildanArk.net, you know the positive review FerFal gave suppressors. I had to keep in mind that if we returned to California, I definitely had a problem. Well, may not, I don't own a BB Gun. It wasn't that hard to find an extended, threaded barrel with a thread protector for my .45 and not much to get it installed. I ordered a FA762S, a FA556A and an Mk-23 Knight's Armament suppressor for the PT1911. If I shot regular ball ammo in the .45, it was pretty quiet.

We stored all of our stuff in Derek's garage but used the food being careful to replace what we used. Thirty days passed without incident and then Amy got into it with Mary. Lorrie was talking about missing David and I just wanted Amy out of there so I suggested they go back to Palmdale and take Baby, Shadow, HB and Pyewacket with them. We'd keep Scrappy, Missy and Sassy. I let her take 2 drums of gas.

What I didn't let her take was any of the food that Sharon had bought unless it was stuff that Sharon had bought specifically for the grandchildren. Knowing Amy, she'd either feed them at MacDonald's or make them Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. We set up shelves in poor Derek's garage and it wasn't long before we had more food than we'd moved to Arkansas.

The dealer had two types of class III weapons, pre-86 and LEO only. The price on the pre-86 weapons was about 4 times the price of LEO only weapons. According to Global Security (I have the internet back now!!!) the unit replacement cost of a M16A3 rifle is \$586. So I don't get GSA pricing and I'm not a cop. Does that justify gouging me on a weapon? I know a fella who has used full auto weapons for sale and wants over \$5,000 per weapon. The only reason I can see for that is the FOPA. I believe were going to be protected out of existence.

Maybe whoever sells the NFR weapons to the dealers is gouging them, but I doubt it. My experience with gun dealers is that they give ½ what it worth and sell it for about 4 times that. What I needed to do was arrange to get one of those LEO only weapons at ¼ the price. I am not a cop, have never been a cop and don't plan on becoming a cop. I don't think I've ever known a cop who would have agreed to be a straw man either. What's more, if you buy a NFR weapon as a lawman, you have to have a letter on the agency letterhead confirming you're a lawman and authorizing the purchase. It turns out that someone in the family I was visiting knew someone who knew someone who needed a little money.

He had a M16A3 that was in very good condition that he wanted to sell. I wasn't interested until I found out that it wasn't on the NFR. He wanted \$1,500 cash money and didn't want to know my name, he planned to report the weapon as stolen semi-auto. Shame on him, that kind of double dipping can get you into jail, when they catch you. I had a Thunder Lizard (M1A) but not a Chicago Typewriter (Thompson sub machinegun). I passed on the deal and got a second Mini-14 and tricked it out.

Survival Story – Chapter 8

The magnitude of the defeat is considerable. Israel appears to have lost at every level – strategic, operational and tactical. Nothing she tried worked. Air power failed, as it always does against an enemy who doesn't have to maneuver operationally, or even move tactically for the most part. The attempts to blockade Lebanon and thus cut off Hezbollah's resupply failed; her caches proved ample. Most seriously, the ground assault into Lebanon failed. Israel took little ground and paid heavily in casualties for that. More, she cannot hold what she has taken; if she is not forced to withdraw by diplomacy, Hezbollah will push her out, as it did once before. The alternative is a bleeding ulcer that never heals.

But these failures only begin to measure the magnitude of Israel's defeat. While Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, is now an Islamic hero, Olmert has become a boiled brisket in the piranha pool that is Israeli politics. The cease-fire in Lebanon will allow camera crews to broadcast the extent of the destruction to the world, with further damage to Israel's image. Israel's "wall" strategy for dealing with the Palestinians has been undone; Hamas rockets can fly over a wall as easily as Hezbollah rockets have flown over Israel's northern border.

Most importantly, an Islamic Fourth Generation entity, Hezbollah, will now point the way throughout the Arab and larger Islamic world to a future in which Israel can be defeated. That will have vast ramifications, and not for Israel alone. Hundreds of millions of Moslems will believe that the same Fourth Generation war that defeated hated Israel can beat equally-hated America, its "coalitions" and its allied Arab and Moslem regimes. Future events seem more likely to confirm that belief than to undermine it.

The cease-fire in Lebanon will last only briefly, its life probably measured in days if not in hours. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah has genuinely accepted it. The notion that the Lebanese Army and a rag-tag UN force will disarm Hezbollah is absurd even by the usual low standard of diplomatic fictions. The bombing and the rocketing may stop briefly, but Israel has already announced a campaign of assassination against Hezbollah leaders, while every Israeli soldier in Lebanon will remain a target of Hezbollah.

Unfortunately for states generally, Israel appears to have no good options when hostilities recommence. It can continue to grind forward on the ground in southern Lebanon, paying bitterly for each foot of ground, and perhaps eventually denying Hezbollah some of its rocket-launching sites. But it cannot hold what it takes. It may strive for a more robust UN force, but what country wants to fight Hezbollah? Any occupier of southern Lebanon that is not there with Hezbollah's permission will face the same guerrilla war Israel already fought and lost. Most probably, Israel will escalate by taking the war to Syria or Iran, and what will be a strategy of desperation. That too will fail, after it plunges the whole region into a war the outcome of which will be catastrophic for the United States as well as for Israel.

Before that disastrous denouement, my Fourth Generation crystal ball suggests the following events are likely:

- Again, a near-term resumption of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, with Israel succeeding no better than it has to date. In the past, the IDF has been brilliant at pulling rabbits out of hats, but this time someone else seems to occupy all the rabbit holes.
- A fracturing of Lebanon, with a collapse of the weak Lebanese state and very possibly a return to civil war there (which was always the probable result of Syria's departure).
- A rise of Syrian and Iranian influence generally, matched by a fall of American influence. If Israel and America were clever, Syria's comeback could offer a diplomatic opportunity of a deal in which Syria changed sides in return for a peace treaty with Israel that included the return of all lands. The crystal ball says that opportunity will be spurned.
- A vast strengthening of Islamic 4GW elements everywhere.
- Finally and perhaps most discouragingly, a continued inability of state militaries everywhere, including those of Israel and the United States, to come to grips with Fourth Generation War. Inability may be too kind of a word; refusal is perhaps more accurate.

Are there any brighter prospects? Not unless Israel changes its fundamental policy. Even in the unlikely event that the cease-fire in Lebanon holds and Lebanese Army and UN forces do wander into southern Lebanon, that would buy but a bit of time. Israel only has a long-term future if it can reach a mutually acceptable accommodation with its neighbors. So long as those neighbors are states, a policy of pursuing such an accommodation may have some chance of success. But as the rise of Fourth Generation elements such as Hezbollah and Hamas weaken and in time replace those states, the possibility will disappear. Unfortunately, Israeli politics appear to be moving away from such a course rather than toward it.

For America, the question is whether Washington will continue to demand that we go down with the Israeli ship.

Tomorrow will be our 6 month mark, and then only 6 more months to go! Everything is fine and works in cycles. Some weeks see more activity than others based on the insurgents' cycles of regrouping and refitting.

The first province was turned over to Iraqi security forces and the goal is for all the provinces to be turned over to the ISF by the end of '07 with the exception of Anbar and Baghdad. Baghdad is the heart of the Sunni Triangle and Anbar is the primary route of the "rat lines", Iraq's Ho Chi Min Trail where the foreign fighters, weapons, and supplies are making their way into the country.

Our new Iraqi battalion commander is turning out to be alright. He punched one of his warrant officers because he was allowing his men to live like pigs (in the Iraqi military it is OK for officers to strike their men, there is no official military justice system in the Iraqi army). He has denied some of his officers leave to make them do their jobs and is docking pay from soldiers who violate rules.

Our old battalion commander is trying to evade his investigation about his skimming money from Iraqi army food contracts and the soldiers themselves.

The brigade general is also involved in the corruption...which is why nothing is happening. Our executive officer returned after 6 months of paid sick leave only to find his dealings in the scam are under investigation, so yesterday he went back on sick leave, all approved by the general.

The biggest lesson I have learned over 6 months here is that the Iraqi culture is incapable of sustaining a western style military. The Arabic style military it can function with is distasteful to western soldiers: officers who hit their men, officer and senior enlisted men who regularly steal from their men, using leadership to openly grant yourself more food and standard of living items while your men go without, taking food from civilians while searching their houses, taking food from crops while searching for weapons caches, and all the while professing to be men of God.

Not to mention the Iraqi culture is so absolutely LAZY that nothing gets done unless we force them to do it.

More of our soldiers went AWOL, new food supplies came in yesterday from Ramadi but were grossly insufficient, new soldiers arrived but their initial military training is substandard and you can tell they are really just here for a paycheck. Iraqi army communications gear is insufficient and not encrypted (we actually have had unidentified people calling on the Iraqi frequencies requesting tactical information...and the Iraqis actually give it to them without knowing who it is).

So after 6 months we've:

- taught them techniques for planning operations...they won't do it.
- shown them how to conduct weapons sustainment ranges...they won't do it.
- shown them how to conduct convoys...they won't do it.
- taught them moral and ethical behavior required of soldiers...they won't do it.
- taught them how to manage logistics...they won't do it.
- taught them personnel and administrative management...they won't do it.
- taught them how to operate tactically...they won't do it.
- taught them how to sustain the life support systems on the camp...they won't do it.

Basically we have taught them how to be a self-sufficient battalion, but unless the Marines do it for them, they won't do anything. They ALWAYS revert back to the "Iraqi way" when we are not around and that involves DESTROYING and WASTING everything they get their hands on.

But other than all that they say they are "dedicated" to the future of Iraq...should be a bright and wonderful future.

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During the period of 17-19 May 2006, the Army's Project Manager Soldier Equipment (PM SEQ) conducted First Article Testing of Pinnacle Armor's Dragon Skin Full Torso Wrap coverage level 4 body armor system at HP White Laboratory as requested by Brigadier General Moran (he has since been forced to retire). After the first round was fired on the 17th the test director Karl Masters and technical liaison James Zheng argued openly and loudly about the placement of the shots and what constituted an edge for flexible armor systems. At this point Karl Masters threw down his paperwork and stormed off as he told James Zheng "You represent the government you select the shots and you will be responsible!" Next, Karl and James threw x-rays of our body armor at us and claimed that we didn't know how to design a flexible armor system.

When we asked how James Zheng came to that conclusion James said "look at the spacing of the discs, they are not evenly spaced"? We showed him that when he picked up the vest to place it on the x-ray table he changed the spacing of some of the rows of discs and that this is what is supposed to happen in flexible systems! You could see the light come on over his head, no wonder they can't seem to design anything better than what they have. Again, deviation from the ESAPI test protocols and procedures took place by the selection of shot placements of APM2 rounds around the ceramics in non-rifle defeating areas (where there was an adhesive anomaly). James Zheng attempted to induce failure with selective placement of shots at the center and edge of individually isolated discs on the system and the system did not fail. This set James Zheng off on a tirade saying "it's not supposed to do that" and throwing his arms in the air and yelling. This does not sound like fair and unbiased testing to us.

The testing was stopped by the Army at 12:37 pm on the 19th, Karl Masters and James Zheng had just shot one of our Medium sized vest with 12 rounds of APM2 (level 4) with complete stops on all rounds with a back face trauma average of 22.5mm for this vest and 23mm for all the vests tested, which is a 50% reduction in trauma over the current system. Imagine how many more lives could have been saved if the Dragon Skin body armor system was available to our troops today. When was the last time the Army dared to shot 12 rounds of M2AP (level 4) into any Interceptor IBA with ESAPI plates? The reason Karl Masters, Col. John Norwood (being forced to retire early) and James Zheng gave for stopping the testing early on the 19th was as quoted by Karl Masters: "I'm completely baffled by this flexible technology and I'm not going to send another round down range until I can understand how a flexible system works!" This is the same group that falsely claimed to have paid Pinnacle Armor nearly a million dollars to develop our Dragon Skin system as Major General Sorenson said on CNN, 31 March 2006!

All of the Government agencies that use our Dragon Skin body armor have all tested the system and found it to be far superior to the current Army system. We are still looking forward to working with the Department of Defense to conduct fair and unbiased testing to prove that our Dragon Skin system is far superior to any other system.

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In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories on which more than a million Palestinians lived, many of them refugees of the war of 1948. Some of the residents of the occupied territories belonged to various militant movements. The PLO's earlier influence in these lands was limited by Egypt and Jordan (who saw it as a Syrian proxy); however, in 1967 it began to rapidly take over the existing infrastructure. Many Palestinians fled to Jordan and de-stabilized its political system. Within months, Israel was again the target of a wave of attacks (at that time mainly consisting of, but not limited to bombings), that originated either in the Palestinian population within the occupied territories, or in Jordan, which was no longer able to contain them.

Israel's army and security services retaliated forcefully and eventually devised tactics that made it possible to stop the attacks. By 1970, members of most major Palestinian terror networks in West Bank and Gaza were identified and arrested, while the PLO's attempts to take over Jordan only led to armed response by King Hussein, and the former's exile. Yasser Arafat and the PLO moved to South Lebanon.

Palestine Liberation Organization has launched numerous terrorist raids on Israeli targets from Lebanon that caused hundreds of Israeli casualties. In addition, in the 1970s and early 1980s, various arms of the PLO have carried out a wave of terrorist bombings, massacres in synagogues and in public airports and airplane hijackings across Europe, the most famous being the Munich massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics, by a group called "Black September".

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon in order to expel the PLO from there. The operation succeeded in making Arafat and numerous PLO members flee to Tunis. During the operation, Israel became entangled with the local population. By 1985 Israel withdrew from all of South Lebanon but for a strip of about 10 miles wide (intended at preventing mortar and rocket fire at Israel's northern cities). However, Israel's prolonged stay and Arab and Iranian support had led to the strengthening of the Shi'ite-Muslim group Hezbollah that began to execute attacks against Israeli and Western targets, military and non-military alike.

In December 1987 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza rose up in a popular civil revolt (named Intifada, Arabic for "shaking off"), opposing the continued Israeli occupation. While the Intifada began spontaneously, by January 1988 it was already under the direction from the PLO headquarters in Tunis. However, the Intifada also signified the rise of Islamic opposition groups to the secular PLO leadership, namely Hamas (led by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin) and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The Intifada's terrorist effects on the Israeli population concentrated in two main areas. First, provocateurs paid by PLO caused the daily creation of large mobs, stoning Israeli cars and attacking Israeli civilians. These were often coordinated with international media outlets in order to maximize media coverage. Secondly, on the general background of the unrest, there were numerous deliberate attacks made sometimes in remote areas

against Israeli civilians. The terrorist attacks were varied in type and style, but many of them could be described as “local initiatives”, that did not require a central planning apparatus. An example of such an attack would be the 405 Bus slaughter of July 6, 1988, in which 14 bus passengers were killed as an Arab assaulted the bus driver as the bus was driving by the edge of a cliff.

In 1993, Israel completed the Oslo Accords, a series of negotiations with the PLO, resulting in mutual recognition, the agreement on the cessation of violence, and the forming of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA or PA). One of PA’s obligations, as stated in the Oslo Accords, was the prevention of Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

Initially, as both Israel and the United States agree, the PA carried out its obligations. In accordance with the agreement, it transformed the Intifada infrastructure into a government-like apparatus. However, several times in the years since 1993, there were several waves of Palestinian attacks. The Palestinian Authority quickly acted against those who carried them out, but it did not arrest the leadership of the terror movements. This led some members of the Israeli public to suspect that the regularity of the attacks - many waves came when the Israeli public reaction could be beneficial to some Palestinian aim during negotiations, along with numerous documented facts of incitement against Jews and Israelis in official PA-controlled media, schools, and mosques - meant that PA complicity could be taking place.

In Autumn 2000 the Second Intifada began. The Palestinians blame Ariel Sharon, then the Israeli opposition leader, for inciting the Intifada with a trip to the politically sensitive Al-Aqsa Mosque with a large group of Israelis, while Israel claims the PA started it intentionally to improve the Palestinian positions at the negotiating table after the failure of the Camp David talks during the summer of 2000.

Over 100 suicide bombings, mainly targeting city buses, restaurants and open air gathering places, have taken place in Israel, killing more than three hundred civilians. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah are said to have at their disposal enormous quantities of weapons and explosives, which all sides agree are not made by the individual bombers themselves but at informal factories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel names the towns of Hebron, Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah as centers of this activity.

Israel claims that the PA’s position regarding terrorism was shady in the first place. While condemning some terrorist attacks, the PA has never arrested figures of importance to the terrorist networks, confiscated their weaponry or even publicly denounced future violence against Israelis. Operatives from the Fatah movement of the late Yasser Arafat, the head of the PA, and Palestinian policemen are known to have participated in a large number of attacks themselves. A radical change of the PA position was that imprisoning militants, even those who targeted Israeli civilians, may be seen as collaborating with Israel.

During Israel’s recent military operations begun in the late spring of 2003 into the West Bank (including the town of Jenin) the Israeli government has obtained and published

thousands of pages of internal Palestinian Authority documents which demonstrate that the PA has been covertly funding and directing, many of the suicide bombings. The head of the United States' CIA, as well as many other US politicians and analysts, have gone on record as saying that these documents are without a doubt real, and prove that Arafat personally ordered terrorism through his Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. The Palestinian Authority initially responded by saying that these documents were taken out of context. However, the PA's current position is that the documents never existed, that they are fabrications – and that they are the property of the Palestine Authority and must be returned. The change in position is interpreted by many in the US and Israel as tacit admissions that the documents were authentic.

As a result of the military operations, reestablishing Israeli control over areas ceded to the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo Accords, the number of terrorist attacks has dropped very significantly, from several a week to one a month.

Notwithstanding the continued European general condemnation of any violence towards civilians, Israelis included, Israel continues to complain that acts taken against European citizens are always labeled as terrorist, but that similar actions against Israelis are seldom labeled as such.

Palestinian Terrorism has an extended history that predates the founding of the state of Israel by several decades. Examples include the 1929 Massacre in Hebron and other cities. The discussion below focuses on the issue of the Palestinian National Authority in curbing or inciting violence. In the Oslo Accords the Palestinian Authority undertook to end all incitement against Israel, Israelis and Jews.

Many Israelis and Americans blame suicide bombings on the indoctrination of Palestinian children, from kindergarten to college age, with pro-terrorist propaganda, citing official Palestinian Authority television shows for 5 and 6 year olds teaching them songs about murdering Jews. Jordanian and Egyptian books used in the schools belonging to Islamic movements are sources of incitement on their own right. Given such a climate of hatred over so many years, they say, it is not surprising that some Palestinian children are eventually convinced to become terrorists.

Some advocates also feel that this does not hold true for the educational institutions of Palestinian authority itself, saying that a new generation of Palestinian textbooks released in the year 2000 is more tolerant. In particular, a study of Palestinian textbooks by Professor Nathan Brown of George Washington University in Washington, DC, while not dismissing the allegations entirely, claims the book to be “largely innocent of these charges”.

However, critics claim that these books, while not inciting directly for violence, still present an excessively jingoistic, nationalistic and fallacious image that in effect denies Israel's right to exist.

A survey conducted by Gaza Community Mental Health Program on children living close to major checkpoints in Khan Yunis and Rafah in Southern Gaza Strip states that 54.6% of the children show symptoms of severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). More than 50% had seen dead or injured people, in 23% of the cases the person was a family member.

Several prominent leaders of Palestinian Islamist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have stated that they are fundamentally opposed to the existence of the state of Israel.

Some commentators argue that the extent of the violence against Israel is greatly exaggerated; pointing out the combined homicide rate including deaths from terrorism is still lower than that of many Western countries. For example, E.V. Kontorovich writes in the NY Post, "The State Department last month issued a travel warning urging Americans to 'defer travel to Israel' because the place is too dangerous – the second such warning in four months. Yet Israel is still safer than America – let alone other nations for which State does not offer warnings."

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Hezbollah (aka, Hezbollah, Hizbu'lla, Hizballah or Hizbullah) is all the same organization, the Party of God. All of the above spellings are correct and there are several more that are also correct. The key is the Hizb part of the word. The Hezb spelling is Westernization of the word.

I type a lot and really should have one of those typewriters I mentioned. You can buy 50 round magazines from Auto Ordinance, but their version of the weapon is semi auto. I saw one advertised on the Internet but God would need a loan to buy it. Back when they came out, they sold for \$225. The one I saw in semi auto for about \$1,400 or \$1,450 depending on model. Although the Thompson is obsolete, I wanted to own one, a real one, something like a Model 1928 or M1A1.

While the damage caused Israel's military reputation tops Western assessments of the Lebanon war, our Iranian sources report an entirely different perception taking hold in ruling circles in Tehran.

After UN Security Council resolution 1701 calling for a truce was carried Friday, Aug. 11, the heads of the regime received two separate evaluations of the situation in Lebanon – one from Iran's foreign ministry and one from its supreme national security council. Both were bleak: their compilers were concerned that Iran had been manipulatively robbed of its primary deterrent asset ahead of a probable nuclear confrontation with the United States and Israel.

While the foreign ministry report highlighted the negative aspects of the UN resolution, the council's document complained that Hezbollah squandered thousands of rockets – either by firing them into Israel or having them destroyed by the Israeli air force.

The writer of this report is furious over the waste of Iran's most important military investment in Lebanon merely for the sake of a conflict with Israeli over two kidnapped soldiers.

It took Iran two decades to build up Hezbollah's rocket inventory.

Our sources estimate that Hezbollah's adventure wiped out most of the vast sum of \$4-6 billion the Iranian treasury sunk into building its military strength. The organization was meant to be strong and effective enough to provide Iran with a formidable deterrent to Israel embarking on a military operation to destroy the Islamic regime's nuclear infrastructure.

To this end, Tehran bought the Israeli military doctrine of preferring to fight its wars on enemy soil. In the mid-1980s, Iran decided to act on this doctrine by coupling its nuclear development program with Israel's encirclement and the weakening its deterrence strength. The Jewish state was identified at the time as the only country likely to take vigorous action to spike Iran's nuclear aspirations.

The ayatollahs accordingly promoted Hezbollah's rise as a socio-political force in Lebanon, at the same time building up its military might and capabilities for inflicting damage of strategic dimensions to Israel's infrastructure.

That effort was accelerated after Israeli forces withdrew from the Lebanese security zone in May 2000. A bunker network and chain of fortified positions were constructed, containing war rooms equipped with the finest western hi-tech gadgetry, including night vision gear, computers and electronics, as well as protective devices against bacteriological and chemical warfare.

This fortified network was designed for assault and defense alike.

Short- medium- and long-range rockets gave the hard edge to Hezbollah's ability to conduct a destructive war against Israel and its civilians – when the time was right for Tehran.

Therefore, Iran's rulers are hopping mad and deeply anxious over news of the huge damage sustained by Hezbollah's rocket inventory, which was proudly touted before the war as numbering 13,000 pieces.

Hezbollah fighters, they are informed, managed to fire only a small number of Khaibar-1 rockets, most of which hit Haifa and Afula, while nearly 100 were destroyed or disabled by Israeli air strikes.

The long-range Zelzal-1 and Zelzal-2, designed for hitting Tel Aviv and the nuclear reactor at Dimona have been degraded even more. Iran sent over to Lebanon 50 of those missiles. The keys to the Zelzal stores stayed in the hands of the Iranian Revolutionary

Guards officers who were in command of Hezbollah. Nasrallah and his officers had no access to these stores.

But Tehran has learned that Israel was able to destroy most of the 22 Zelzal launchers provided.

That is not the end of the catalogue of misfortunes for the Islamic rulers of Iran.

1. The UN Security Council embodied in resolution 1701 a chapter requiring Hezbollah to disarm – in the face of a stern warning issued by supreme ruler Ayatollah Ali Khomeini in person in the early days of the war. Revolutionary Guards commanders went so far as to boast: “No one alive is capable of disarming Hezbollah.”

The disarming of Hezbollah would therefore be a bad knock to the supreme ruler’s authority and prestige as well as a disastrous blow for the deterrent force so painstakingly and expensively fashioned as a second front line to protect the Islamic republic from a safe distance.

2. Hezbollah’s ejection from South Lebanon, if accomplished in the aftermath of the ceasefire, would moreover deprive Tehran of the sword hanging over Israel’s head of instantaneous attack.

For the sake of partial damage control, Tehran handed Nasrallah a set of new instructions Sunday, Aug. 13:

First, to find a way of evading the ceasefire and keeping up war operations against Israeli forces.

Second, to reject the proposal to disarm before the Lebanese government meets on this Monday afternoon. In fact, that meeting was called off after Hassan Nasrallah sent a message to the Lebanese ministers flatly refusing to have Hezbollah give up its weapons in the south. He also turned down a compromise proposal handed him later, whereby the Lebanese army’s first mission after deploying in the south would be to help Hezbollah evacuate its fighters with their arms to positions north of the Litani River.

The strategy evolving in Tehran since the ceasefire went into effect Monday morning requires Hezbollah to employ a range of stratagems – not only to prevent the truce from stabilizing but to stop the Lebanese army from deploying in the south and, above all, the entry of an effective international force.

Furthermore, Hezbollah is instructed to stretch the military crisis into the next three or four months, synchronously with the timetable for a UN Security Council sanctions-wielding session on Iran.

According to exclusive reports reaching our sources, the Iranian government believes that Israel and the United States are preparing a military operation for the coming Octo-

ber and November to strike Iran's nuclear installations. It is therefore vital to keep the two armies fully occupied with other pursuits.

Survival Story – Chapter 9

Iranian leaders' conviction that the Lebanon war was staged to bamboozle them rests on certain perceptions:

As seen from Tehran, Israel looked as though it was carrying out a warming-up exercise in preparation for its main action against Iran's nuclear program. The Israeli army was able to explore, discover and correct its weak points, understand what was lacking and apply the necessary remedial measures. They therefore expect the IDF to emerge from the war having produced novel methods of warfare.

They also have no doubt that the United States will replenish Israel's war chest with a substantial aid program of new and improved weaponry.

From the Iranian viewpoint, Israel succeeded in seriously degrading Hezbollah's capabilities. It was also able to throw the Lebanese Shi'ite militia to the wolves; the West is now in a position to force Nasrallah and his men to quit southern Lebanon and disarm. The West shut its eyes when he flouted the Resolution 1559 order for the disarmament of all Lebanese militias. But that game is over. The Americans will use Resolution 1701 as an effect weapon to squeeze Iran, denied of its second-front deterrence, on its nuclear program.

Tehran hopes to pre-empt the American move by torpedoing the Lebanon ceasefire and preventing the termination of hostilities at all costs.

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Now I almost wish I couldn't get the news, it wasn't good. It seemed to me that the world had divided itself into two camps: US and our close allies and everybody else. The War on Terror was happening everywhere, not just in New York and Washington, but Madrid, London, Germany and untold other places in the Far East, although Bali comes to mind. I had to study to see what a 4th Generation war was:

The three classical levels of war – strategic, operational and tactical – still exist in Fourth Generation war. But all three are affected and to some extent changed by the Fourth Generation. One important change is that while in the first three generations, strategy was the province of Generals; the Fourth Generation gives us the "strategic corporal." Especially when video cameras are rolling, a single enlisted Marine may take an action that has strategic effect.

At the heart of this phenomenon, Fourth Generation war, is not a military but a political, social and moral revolution: a crisis of legitimacy of the state. All over the world, citizens of states are transferring their primary allegiance away from the state to other things: to tribes, ethnic groups, religions, gangs, ideologies and so on. Many people who will no longer fight for their state will fight for their new primary loyalty. In America's two wars with Iraq, the Iraqi state armed forces showed little fight, but Iraqi insurgents whose loy-

alties are to non-state elements are now waging a hard fought and effective guerilla war. I see; Vietnam, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, now it make sense. It seems to this tired old man that maybe we bit off more than we can chew.

From South Carolina's budding immigrant population to the fast-rising number of Hispanics in Arkansas, minority groups make up an increasing share of the population in every state but West Virginia, according to figures released Tuesday by the Census Bureau.

"This is just an extraordinary explosion of diversity all across the United States," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "It's diversity and immigration going hand in hand."

I suggested that if he liked my Tac-Force chest rig, I buy 2 so Mary and he could each have one. Derek didn't have a gun safe but he did have a locking closet with a dead bolt. There were 2 keys, one on his key ring and the other on Mary's. I bought one of those long chains that are intended to extend light pulls but can be worn around the neck like a dog tag chain. The duplicate key he made me went on that and I never took it off. However, for all the weapons, magazines and ammo I had, I still didn't have the rifle I wanted. What I had instead was a house in Palmdale, CA that need a little patching, new linoleum/carpet and sold. Even in a housing slump some communities are short of housing, especially after an earthquake. Sharon called Patti, they must have gotten the phone up, to check on the house. Patti said the house was fine and Costco and Sam's Club were back open. The water and sewer would be on before the end of the week and the remainder of the utilities, lights and gas, within 2 weeks.

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"Matt, Gary Ott... Yes, it was pretty bad, but we're in Arkansas at the moment... Long story short, we have earthquake insurance but it has a \$15,000 deductible. Our damages probably won't run more than \$15,000 so in essence, we're uninsured; do you see my problem?"

I was told he was willing to take it to the Trust Committee, but no promises. I didn't bother to explain my plan to him. It was simple, fix the house up enough to sell and sell it. To make that easy, Derek and I would have to return to Palmdale, rent a truck and move our remaining stuff. That would leave an empty house that would be easy for painters and carpet installers. When he's in a hurry, he sort of drives like I used to, he only stops to fill and empty, ergo, it was 24 hours to Palmdale. We took the Daewoo, it would be easier to tow back to Gassville. We also took 5 gas cans, just in case.

When we got to Palmdale, I called Sharon and she told me that the bank had come through. Absent garbage service, the trash company had put a 5 yard dumpster in each neighborhood. Patti said that when it was full, you called the garbage service and they replaced it within 4 hours. Derek and I spent the first 2 days arranging things as in finding and hiring a painter and picking out new carpet and linoleum. I called a moving

company and found out they would pack the house for shipment, as a separate service, so I hired them. They would also load a U-Haul truck, as a separate service.

We spent 2 days sorting through trash and filled the dumpster. I told Amy I didn't care where she went, but she couldn't stay here, we were selling the house. I was forced to rent her a storage space and prepay it for 6 months. We got the U-Haul truck and with the help of David's boys moved all of her junk out. I don't believe she said more than 5 words to me the entire time. I wrote her a check for \$2,500 and told her to find a place. Then, she got in her SUV and that was the last I saw of her.

The next step was to have everything boxed to move and the following day, they loaded the U-Haul truck. As soon as the house was empty, the painter showed up. They said they'd be done in 2 days so I scheduled the carpet and linoleum installation for 3 days hence. I gave Patti all but one set of keys and offered her \$200 to clean up the house after the painters and carpet installers were done. The house was listed with Coldwell Banker in Palmdale for \$250,000. It sold 2 days after the carpet was installed to the first couple that looked at it.

We took the truck to the U-Haul store and they hooked up a car towing rig and we added the Daewoo. I may have things a bit out order here; it was all very confusing at the time. We cleared \$225,000 less the \$90,000 loan or ~\$135,000. The \$15,000 the bank provided covered all of our costs and then some. By the time the house sold, we were back in Arkansas. Escrow closes quickly when the buyer has his financing pre-arranged. Sharon arranged for the money to be wired to her savings account in Iowa.

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We bought a lot and a double wide mobile home. A hole was excavated for a basement but the basement was about 20' deep and the only opening was on one end. The overhead was a well-supported foot of concrete and it had footings, 9' walls, a 12" lid and 12'6" risers to set the house on. To the casual observer, the house was 30" above-ground. There was a ramp that started one end of the back of the house and went to the level of the basement floor. It turned a corner and you continued to a 2nd landing turned again and followed a tunnel to get to the, ah, er, um, Swiss PT Armored Door which had been cast in place when they poured the 10" thick basement and armory walls. The armory had 2 steel doors with the outer door opening out and the inner door opening in. It was a room almost half the width of the basement and 12' deep.

Almost because it stopped short of the armored door which opened into a 6' wide hallway 12' long created by a 2"x8" wall that extended from the outside wall to create another room 12' deep housing the Kohler 30REOZJB which was on a 200amp automatic transfer switch. The mechanical room was the same size as the armory, but not nearly so vacant. The generator intake source was the shelter and exhaust pipes with a 3 bar blast valves extended to the surface. The ANDAIR VA-150 with an appropriate filter plus a separate scrubber for scrubbing carbon monoxide/dioxide from the basement atmosphere during a period of time when outside air might not be suitable was in the shelter

along with an overpressure valve. The storage room housed the freezer and spare refrigerators.

The two pipes in the generator room were both exhaust pipes. The first ejected the engine exhaust and the second the hot air from the room. The generator burned room air sucked in from the pipe from the shelter. With 113 amps at 240 volts, we had whole home prime power system.

The new house, a Beacon Hills floor plan D, came with propane fueled countertop burners, hot water heater and furnace. Sharon moved the new refrigerator to the basement and put her Amana upstairs. The other refrigerator was our old Kenmore elite sided by side refrigerator/freezer that had been repaired so it didn't leak water and the icemaker worked. Every time the icemaker filled, it was emptied into an ice bag. The only thing that freezer held was bags of ice. The main basement refrigerator was the one that came with the mobile home. We put in electric countertop burners for the basement. Our older washer and dryers were in the basement and Sharon had brand new Maytag washer and gas dryer in the utility room. The old dryer was worn out and fueled by gas. She replaced it with an electric.

By the time we got it done, we were down to \$25,000 give or take. I didn't have that rifle and probably couldn't pick it up if I did, but it was at the top of my list. Sharon said we had to save the left over money for taxes on the sale of our house in Palmdale. We'd kept track of the improvements and I computed that the house we had paid \$95 grand for represented a total investment of more like \$125 grand. Any of the gain we put into the new home was considered a transfer of our basis, hence not taxable. We didn't want visitors so we went with the optional activity room, optional study, optional Master Bath and 3 fireplaces. She had a huge room for her quilting and I had a study (office) and a den (library). Aside from the things I wanted to buy, we had only one problem left, getting Missy and Scrappy trained to potty outside.

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The 30REOZJB burned diesel. I started buying deep cycle batteries, the gel kind, in addition to 1,000 gallon loads of diesel. One month we got a big check from Iowa, I went crazy and bought 2 inverters. That was Plan B, my just in case plan, if something happened to the generator or we had to shut it down to change the oil, etc. Obsessive-compulsive people make lists and have several sets of plans, A through Z. The EPA certified generator burned from 1.0 to 2.8gph. A one year supply of diesel was between 8,766 gallons and 24,545 gallons per year.

They also have appliance caddies so they can move the upstairs appliances to the basement, if they have enough time. That was one of several reasons the access to the basement was a ramp instead of stairs. However, the ramp went down 12' in 76' making it about a 16% grade, more than my wheelchair could handle with me in it.

Here's how worked out the propane issue: 1) we rented one 3,000-gallon propane tank from one company and rented a second of the same size from a second company, giving us a total of 5,400 gallons capacity and those tanks were buried tanks, that was the company preference. Buried, they would fill the tanks to 95% or 2,850 per tank. Not full, but Sharon said we could handle \$750 a month until we got them filled. That would take 15 months, but we'd have plenty of propane when we finished up. At the moment we had about 2,500 in the older tank. It would take about 350 more to fill it to the 95% level and then we'd start on the second which only held 300 gallons.

Once upon a time, we used a different kind of measurement. For example the distance between point A and point B was so many miles, not measured in time. A liquid you purchased was generally measure in gallons, not the cost. With propane hovering at \$2.25 a gallon each fill added ~ 333 gallons or \$750 dollars' worth. I also wanted a farm gas tank to store some gasoline for whenever we were short on money and needed gas. Some of the things we left in California had to be replaced, oil lamps, kerosene and Coleman fuel, it was a long list.

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She was holding some money back but didn't tell me so we'd have it if we needed. Had I known, I'm sure I could have found another gun to buy. Which brings me to the other thing I wanted but would never have; one of those Tac-50s. I kept thinking I had to get the batteries set up and the inverter wired in and every battery put me that much further from the rifle. Instead of the 2 military M16A3s, we settled for the 2 Mini-14s.

Derek was working at a new job and liked it although it wasn't anything like his previous job. He'd worked for Tractor Supply in Des Moines before and now he was working for the USPS in Mountain Home. I tried, really I did, but I couldn't corrupt him. He wasn't about to do anything that would lose him that extra stripe he picked up when got back from Iraq.

He claimed he didn't have to go back unless the US declared war. Right, when was the last time we did that? December 8, 1942! We fought in Korea, that was a police action, and we fought in Vietnam with nothing more than a resolution. Now we're fighting an undeclared war against terror. Methinks somebody forgot Vietnam. John Kerry remembers; he saved his Band-Aids. John McCain remembers and I happen to like him. George doesn't remember because he wasn't there. Colin Powell remembers but he threw up his hands and quit as Secretary of State. I know some of the Squirrels remember, but not me, I was a REMF.

I'm beginning to suspect that that undeclared war is going to get hot real soon. Now that I got the internet back, I'm reading the news again. It's not good. When the 34 day war stopped last year, most everyone claimed they won. Iran won; they took everyone's mind off their nuclear program. That's about the third time I've said that, I'm getting senile.

I'm not that bad, I solved the problem with that grade into the basement. I got a Warn Winch and Derek and I attached it to the top of the ramp. We rigged a nylon strap that attached to the wheelchair's base and a control cable so I could control the winch from the chair. I need that; I was up to 64 and felt like 90. It was a simple switch, forward to lower and back to raise. It took some getting used to, I always felt like I was going to fall out of the chair or fall over backward – we added a seat belt and I was much more comfortable. With two corners to turn, we had to install pulleys on the inside corners to keep things rolling smoothly. The other advantage to the winch was getting things into and out of the basement. We tried it with a loaded freezer and it was the cat's whisker.

I gave up on the Tac-50 and decided instead to spend the money on a Ham radio. I couldn't pick it up either but it wasn't intended to be moved. So, list no. 71 was my radio list, Kenwood TS2000, SSB CB mobile and base radios, mast, antennas, lightening arrestors, you name it, the list was only a half-page long. I started with a Ham radio, power supply and antennas. Next were the cables and lightening arrestors and things like that. Then I went looking for a used power pole. I called the utility company and asked them how much they charged if you knocked down an electric pole in a car accident. It wasn't cheap, but it was cheaper than a real mast.

We dickered, half in English and half in whatever language they speak in Arkansas. I can tell you, it included y'all and hey and words I didn't understand. The most cost effective solution was to have them install a used pole. They know how deep to dig the hole and had the equipment and experience. I talked to one of the men working on the project because someone said he climbed poles. I told him I needed 2 cross beams and 4 antennas mounted plus the coax brought down the pole. He told me to get the antennas and he'd mount them and run the coax for \$25 an hour.

I know I should have used RG213 but RG8 was the only thing immediately available. We put in the antennas I usually recommend, Comet Tribander, Diamond D130J, MFJ-1798 10 band vertical and a Starduster CB antenna. Hey, this stuff was expensive, but the pole and installation saved me enough over a mast to pay for the coax. I ran a 5th strand as a backup. How did we pay for it? Simple, we didn't have any payments besides utility bills, lights, phone and propane bill. Plus groceries of course, but Sharon was still buying like we had 5 in the home and we were getting way ahead on food.

Derek found a used farm tank somewhere, it held 500-gallons. He cleaned it out and painted it bright red for me. We emptied the drums of stabilized gas into the tank and had the local dealer top it off. I measured out the PRI-G and added it before it was filled, hoping that it would blend when the gas was added. We stacked the drums, he had 2 and I had 4, and planned to fill them 10 gallons at a time. When it turned out that would take a year, I asked Sharon to tell me when we had enough money to fill the drums.

She said to go ahead, she had the money at the moment because I deferred the Tac-50. What, you didn't think she knew? I'd mentioned it once or twice and it went bang; she knew! I added the PRI-G and had the guy come out and top off the gas tank and fill the 6 drums. Derek and I got them into the basement's utility room to fuel the 5kw gen-

erator, just in case. It was pretty cool in the basement, under 60°, so maybe the gas wouldn't evaporate.

No, we hadn't won the Lottery, so we didn't have everything I wanted. No Tac-50, no radiation suits at \$1,200 each and no \$10,000 medical clinic. I had to have oxygen, so we bought a good used 10 liter machine. We had Sharon's CPAP and I could use it if I needed and she didn't. We bought our own nebulizer pump, they aren't that expensive. None of which was getting us ahead on our prescriptions.

When the humidity came up, we got 2 70 pint dehumidifiers. The upstairs one used the built in bucket and the basement unit, the drain hose accessory. As it got warmer, we went out less. I only went to the doctor once a quarter; I found one I liked in Mountain Home. He wrote quarterly prescriptions with 3 refills after I explained I had Humana. On my first trip back, I told him I was sorry, but I lost the prescriptions he wrote. He also gave us a large load of samples when Sharon asked.

I reviewed my stories and found the list of antibiotics I published a few times. I made up a list and went to a store that sold veterinarian medications. I already had the ACS (QuikClot) bandages and about all we needed was some IV sets and Ringer's solution. The doctor was reluctant to write a prescription so I asked Derek if he could get a case of 500ml bags, starter sets and 24 IV sets. He said he'd work on it if we would pay for it. I dug out my old medical supply catalog and showed him how cheap they were.

It took him a week to get a prescription for the Ringer's and IV sets. We gave him the money and he got them at a medical supply house. We were set, unless he was the one who needed an IV. If that happened we were up a creek and I'm sure you remember the name of the creek.

George said he wouldn't leave Iraq as long as he was President. If he meant what he said, we'd be there until January 20, 2009, the day they swore in the new Democrat President. I support the troops 110%, but the war is quite another thing. Since early 2006, it had been a civil war and we no longer belonged. On the same day, Bush floated a trial balloon testing the public reaction to the idea of our pulling out. I watched Glenn Beck that night but he was as bad as the rest, focused on the JonBenét story. I'm sorry that somebody murdered that little girl, but enough is enough.

We were so focused on that guy confessing that we weren't paying attention to what was going on in the Middle East. Israel was paying attention and managed to kill some of those Hezbollah folks. Lebanon complained that it wasn't fair; it seems they forgot who started it too. That's the problem these days; people often forget who started it; if your reaction to their behavior is deemed too severe, like how we ended WW II with Japan. They think it would have been better to kill a couple of million people by invading Japan rather than dropping 2 bombs that killed a fraction of that.

Hiroshima claimed 80,000 lives immediately and 60,000 thereafter, let's round it off at 150,000. Nagasaki lost 70,000 immediately and about 75,000 later, let's round it off at

150,000. So, 300,000 lives were more important than 2,000,000 lives? I'm sorry, that doesn't compute. In fact, more civilians died in the Battle of Okinawa than did in the initial blast of the atomic bombings. Years after the war, Secretary of State James Byrnes claimed that 500,000 American lives would have been lost – and that number has since been repeated authoritatively, but in the summer of 1945, US military planners projected 20,000 – 110,000 combat deaths from the initial November 1945 invasion, with about three to four times that number wounded. Many military advisors held that a worst-case scenario could involve up to 1,000,000 American casualties.

In a study done by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in April, the figures of 7.45 casualties/1000 man-days and 1.78 fatalities/1000 man-days were developed. This implied that a 90-day Olympic campaign would cost 456,000 casualties, including 109,000 dead or missing. If Coronet took another 90 days, the combined cost would be 1,200,000 casualties, with 267,000 fatalities. A study done for Secretary of War Henry Stimson's staff by William Shockley estimated that conquering Japan would cost 1.7-4 million American casualties, including 400,000-800,000 fatalities, and five to ten million Japanese fatalities. The key assumption was large-scale participation by civilians in the defense of Japan.

With that in mind, when push comes to shove, I certainly hope we nuke Iran assuming all of our troops are home. I sure we could spare one for Syria too. In fact 14 nukes would take out every major city in Syria. It wouldn't take many more than that to wipe out Iran; we could probably do the whole job with 2 B-2 Spirits or 4 missiles from one Ohio class SSBN. If anyone else needs bombing, I'm sure the Israelis can handle it.

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On Wednesday July 4, 2007 we were having a picnic. We invited Derek and Mary, Mary's parents and some of her other relatives. We had hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids and chicken on the grill. Sharon made pistachio salad and I did the macaroni salad. Mary was baking the beans and her mother was planning on bring a devil's food cake, my favorite. I gave Derek some cash and told him to buy whatever kind of beer everyone like. We had several cases of Coke and C2.

By 2:00, everyone was there so I fired up my propane grill and started to cook the chicken. I found out a long time ago there was 2 ways to cook chicken on a grill. The fast way required a hot grill and a lot of attention. Conversely, a slow grill let you put the chicken on and turn it after 30 minutes resulting in a very tender and moist grilled chicken. I also borrowed Derek's gas grill and was cooking up about 5 chickens I'd cut up myself.

My favorite way to cut up a chicken is to cut out the backbone and then halve it. Two more cuts get the leg and thigh off and separated and one more cut gets the wing off. I doubt it took me more than 15 minutes to cut up the 5 chickens. Then I washed them and dried them off. They went back into the refrigerator until it was time to cook. When people showed up, I took them out and let them warm a little before I put them on the grills.

It wasn't southern fried chicken, but they seemed to enjoy it since there wasn't any left over. The second favorite item was the macaroni salad. Besides the macaroni and mayo, it contained green onions, celery, green pepper, black olives, pimento and cheese. There was a morning of dicing the veggies and I always felt it was worth it. I stuck a transistor radio in my pocket with an ear plug in my good ear; I intended to listen to the news on this 4th of July.

Iran and North Korea had been acting up again although there wasn't much news on the radio. I guess I didn't need to wear it. We had a good time and later in the evening, some of the folks left to see the fireworks. I once wrote that if you've seen one hole in the ground, you've seen all the holes in the ground. I've seen fireworks before and they don't interest me. Now, if I could get my hands on a gross of M-80s or M-100s, that would be different.

All legal fireworks have a maximum charge of 50mg of flashpowder. The maximum on an aerial device is 160mg. In the 'good old days' firecrackers had the following amounts of flashpowder: Cherry Bomb 1g; Silver Salute 1.5g; M-80 3g; Super M-80 6g; Super M-100 7g; Quarter Sticks 15g; Barrel Bombs ??; Half Sticks 25g; and, M-1000 50-100g. If you tightly taped a Quarter Stick to a BIC lighter, you have an incendiary hand grenade with a 6 second fuze. Jails are houses with bars on the windows.

It didn't look like anything was going to happen this 4th of July so I went to bed around midnight, early for me. Right around 5am, the alarm I had connected to the automatic transfer switch went off indicating that we'd lost power. That should answer the question of how do you know if the power goes off in the middle of the night. I used a horn from a security system; they're loud enough to wake the dead. I got my robe and slippers on, turned off the alarm and went to the living room to turn on the TV. There wasn't a signal on any channel.

"Sharon, get up, something is wrong."

"Isn't it just a power outage?"

"I don't know, there are no TV stations on the air. I'd better call Derek and you'd better get dressed."

The phone was dead, it was time for plan B. I had a fleeting thought, today was Lorrie's 40th birthday.

"The phone is out too, try your cellular."

"Sorry Gary, I can't get the tower."

"You'd better go get Mary and Derek. Tell him to bring their weapons, I don't like this. I'll go to the shelter and fire up the radios."

“Shouldn’t you start emptying the refrigerator?”

“Not until we know what is happening, no.”

“I’ll be back.”

Ten minutes later, Derek, Mary, Elizabeth, Joshua and newborn Thomas showed up trailing behind Sharon.

“What’s up Dad?”

“Power and phones are out. I couldn’t get anything on the TV so I came down here and fired up the radios. I’ve been listening on 75 meters and there have been explosions in 3 large cities. That sounds like terrorists, but terrorist prefer to strike at rush hour.”

“It’s rush hour in New York and the entire east coast Dad. What cities are involved so far?”

“Washington, New York and Atlanta. It took the entire power grid down as near as I can tell from Ham radio, the blast in Washington was a nuclear blast.

“I’m going after Mary’s folks. When I get back, I’ll stop by the house and empty the refrigerator. I think we’d better button up until we know what’s happening.”

“Ok, I’ll go get my computer and wheelchair. Ask Mary to help Sharon empty our refrigerator.”

When I was finished getting my stuff to the basement, I sat down to think about what was happening. If it were terrorists, one would have thought that they set off all their bombs at once. Of course, that flew in the face of rush hours. The rush hours were all generally at the same clock time which was an hour later in the time zones as you moved west. Did that mean the Central Time Zone would go up at 6am? If it did, that would make the police frantic trying to find bombs. There wouldn’t be time to evacuate cities, if that was the plan.

Survival Story – Chapter 10

America's emergency care system is in critical condition. The signs are unmistakable:

- Emergency room (ER) crowding: Over the last decade, ER visits increased 26%. Meanwhile, the number of ERs declined 9% and hospitals closed 198,000 beds. Do the math. ER crowding was inevitable.
- Ambulance diversion: When crowding reaches dangerous levels, ERs divert inbound ambulances. In 2003, diversions happened half a million times – an average of once per minute.
- Uncompensated care: Americans are legally entitled to emergency care, but no funding is provided to pay for it. This contributes to the closure of many ERs and trauma centers.
- Fewer “on-call” specialists: The rising costs of uncompensated care and fear of legal liability have led more specialists to opt out of taking ER calls.

Inadequate emergency preparedness: If ERs and trauma centers are already jammed with patients, how could they respond to a disaster or a terrorist strike?

These challenges are highlighted in 3 new reports from the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Among the IOM's recommendations, 4 stand out:

1. Congress should designate a lead agency to coordinate federal support for emergency and disaster care.
2. Federal agencies should develop a focused program of emergency care research.
3. States should regionalize delivery of emergency care to create a seamless delivery system.
4. Hospitals, CMS, and the Joint Commission (JCHAO) must end ER crowding and ambulance diversion to restore access to emergency care.

The IOM envisions a coordinated, regionalized, and accountable emergency care system. It is up to us to make that a reality. When your life is on the line, you want your doctor, not your ambulance, to go the extra mile.

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So let's say you're George and you're out of town. At 6am EST, several nukes go off, putting the whammy on several East Coast cities. Naturally the Secret Service is going to hustle you and whoever is with you to a secure location. You remember 9/11 and how there was a 4th plane. Would you ask yourself if they are going to hit more cities? If so, when? How about 6am, the beginning of the morning commute? Now what? You can't evacuate, that could take too long, look at New Orleans. Duck and Cover? It won't help much, but that's about the only option. No matter what you do, the Democrats are going to claim it's your fault, remember New Orleans? Why did you make the wind blow so hard and why didn't you force them to evacuate? Your best bet would be to by-

pass Chertoff, which might save more people. Do an EAS message and tell everyone to get to a place of safety. Tell them that Laura and you will pray for them, they like that.

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I could be wrong, but I think it's a little late to worry about no emergency rooms. There were some cities that I didn't hear about, Detroit, Cleveland, Miami and Boston. If I guessed right, the Central Time Zone was going to go in about 10 minutes. It wasn't long before a Little Rock radio station came on the air, I assume they had backup power. It was KARN FM 102.9 (AM is 920). The country was at Threat Condition Red. The announcer listed the 7 cities that had been bombed, all with nuclear weapons. They were ground bursts, carried in panel trucks or rental trucks. It wouldn't pay to be a truck driver this morning.

A few minutes later the announcer indicated that more bombs had gone off. Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Dallas. These bombs weren't in trucks but luxury cars. I checked the clock and it was 6am CDT. That confirmed that whoever was behind this was working their way across the country hitting large cities with nuclear weapons. So far, they'd exploded 12. I couldn't project how many more there'd be but there were 2 time zones left.

The Mountain Time zone held Denver, Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, Phoenix, Tucson and Salt Lake City. However Arizona didn't observe DST, except for the Navaho nation. The Pacific Time zone held Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, most of them military towns. That made 11 more cities, was I missing one? We'd know in an hour or two.

Derek was back with Mary's folks and some of her relatives. He'd cleaned out the refrigerator and Mary and Sharon had finished so I slide the ramp cover over the ramp and closed the blast door. I wasn't worried about blast damage in the Bull Shoals area, but the wind was in the west. I was worried that they hadn't exhausted all of their options when it came to delivering the weapons. If this country were hit by 2 dozen nukes, NCA would practically be forced to retaliate, but against whom?

I gave them about a week to figure out who was behind this and retaliate. The announcer reported that Israel had attacked Syria with nuclear weapons. We still had about 130,000 troops in Iraq and more in Afghanistan. In round numbers we had about 24 thousand troops in South Korea and the Kitty Hawk's home port was Yokosuka. I just bet all ships were ordered out of port when the bombs went off on the east coast. All of our troops were being brought home.

I was very, very tired, I usually get 8-9 hours of sleep starting at 1-2 am. When I was extra tired, I might sleep until 1pm. All I needed to do to get back to sleep was take my morning pills and shot plus eat breakfast. No amount of coffee could keep me awake on only 4 hours of sleep. We dug out the used camping cots I bought and I put new batteries in the CD V-717 and CD V-715. Sharon fixed pancakes and we all ate.

“What do you want me to do?” Derek asked.

“Monitor the radios and the CD V-717. Record the radiation reading every fifteen minutes; I’m going to get some sleep. I’ll spell you when I get up and you can take a nap. At the moment, I think we have more bombs to go so listen to KARN and keep track of where they attack. We have no way to contact Damon or your sisters, do you think they’ll come here?”

“Hell, who knows? Damon might, he knows that Sharon and you moved here. I don’t know about Amy or Lorrie.”

“Odds are Amy doesn’t have money for gas. If she can come up with it, she might try, but she’d have to go through Albuquerque. I have it on my list for the Mountain Time zone. I mapped the radiation from LA and if the wind is in the west, Palmdale won’t get any fallout.”

“Are you talking about Amy and Lorrie?” Sharon asked.

“Yep, Damon may show up but I doubt Amy has money for gas and I’d expect Albuquerque to be bombed.”

“I sent her enough money to fill to the drums of gas. That’s enough to get here, can’t she go around Albuquerque?”

“She could take the Devil’s Highway to 160 and take the roads east to Springfield, Missouri then turn south to get here. It’s only 4am in Palmdale; I doubt she’s even up yet.”

I’d forgotten that she’d changed jobs and was working for the LA County Sheriff’s Department in Downtown LA. If she was smart, she’d be taking the train from Palmdale to Union Station and a bus to Monterey Park. She had her BA in Law Enforcement or Criminal Science from Bakersfield. It was an administrative job and I doubted she even had a gun.

When I woke it was 11am. I spelled Derek and he hit the sack. He’d taken regular readings of the CD V-717 and there were notes indicating cities where explosions had occurred. The one I’d missed was Cheyenne. With 24 bombs confirmed, whoever had set off the bombs hadn’t missed any cities. The fallout had steadily increased to 200R/hr but hadn’t gone any higher. I got out my handy dandy seven ten rule spreadsheet and looked it up. It said we’d reach 100mR/hr around 615 hours.

“John, are you awake?”

“What’s up?”

“I’ve calculated the shelter time, its right at 25 days.”

“Damn, that’s almost 4 weeks. Are you sure?”

“100mR per hour is right at .0005 of the peak level and according to my spreadsheet, it will take 615 hours to achieve.”

“Are you sure?”

“No, I’m not sure, but I’m pretty damned close.”

“Son of a gun, 4 weeks. Do you have enough food down here?”

“Six plus months, maybe a little more. I’ve got plenty of coffee. There’re beans and rice and all the food we usually eat. I can keep this few people fed pretty good for 6 weeks and not need to go looking for food once we get out.”

“Why do you have that much food?”

“Why not? Maybe you didn’t know but we’ve been sitting on the edge of a food crisis since hurricane Katrina and Rita hit Louisiana. With fuel prices being what they are, all excess corn is being converted to ethanol and the Dakotas had a bad drought in ‘06 and lost a major portion of their crops. We’ve been short on beans, rice and wheat to make pasta. Katrina drove the price of Folgers coffee up a buck a can. At least we don’t have earthquakes here.”

“We’re not that far from the New Madrid Fault.”

“In Palmdale, we lived 3 miles from the San Andreas. The overhead of this ‘basement’ is 12” of reinforced concrete covered with 64” of soil. That gives us a conservative protection factor around 7,191,085. We have 5,700 gallons of propane and enough diesel fuel to run the generator for about 2,400 hours at near full power. I have my old backup 7kw gasoline generator to keep us going when we have to service the big generator.”

“What else do you have?”

“The number one item is toilet paper. There are some things you can’t really have too much of. When I was a kid, I remember wiping my behind with pages from a Montgomery Ward catalog; I don’t plan on ever doing that again. When I was in the Air Force, I worked on the Space Program. That taught me about redundancy. One of anything is ok, but two is better. We have a 500 gallon farm tank plus 6 55-gallon drums of gas, stabilized. Let’s wait and see how this situation works itself out, but it’s the end of civilization as we know it, that’s for sure.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Have they rebuilt New Orleans? No and it’s been almost 2 years. Now they have 24 more cities to rebuild. The only good news I can think of is that the phones are out.”

“Why’s that?”

“They can’t activate Derek.”

“Sure they can, they’ll use the radio and issue recall orders that way.”

“Crap.”

o

Derek didn’t have his MOPP gear at home; I didn’t have protective suits. Translation – Nobody is going anywhere until the radiation level was well below 100mR/hr. I didn’t have enough of the CD V-742 dosimeters for everyone, I had 6 but thanks to XORuss and my buying extra, we weren’t short on KI/KIO₃. I guess I should have bought more dosimeters but they were \$45 each. I wondered about him, but he lived in Payson and was good friends with the folks who owned USS. He told me that Sharon Packer got a kick out of the free advertising she got in my stories.

I just replied to someone who wanted some information. Permit me to repeat what I said. Muslim, Jew or Christian, we all believe in the same God, ain’t it a shame!!! Is there any difference between a black Baptist and a white Methodist? Not if they practice what they preach. A member of the LDS church is the same person as the Roman Catholic if both believe and practice what they preach. We’re going to destroy the world over Denominations!!!

When I show up at the Pearly gates, I toting my Catholic Bible, my Book of Mormon and my King James Bible, just in case. Sorry, I don’t have a copy if the Quran or I’d probably take it too. I’ll bet the 10 Commandments, they’re politically incorrect you know, are the same in all the books. Besides, St. Pete has it all written in his book. It says, Thou Shall Not Murder, not Thou Shall Not Kill. I can read; that’s why I call it strategic reallocation. Funny thing is, it’s just words, and it depends on your INTENT. Do you eat beef or pork or fish or chicken? Do you think the animals committed suicide? Get real. Those veg-gies you’re eating were alive until you harvested them. They call it the food chain. I think onions are an exception.

I saw two male lions eating a sick female lion on the Discovery Channel. That happened right after the Hyenas ate her two cubs. It was sad, but it was a FACT OF LIFE. We’re born, we live and we die. I think it’s been that way for a while. What pisses me off is somebody trying to change when I die. Your honor, it was self-defense.

The judge might let me go, but the other guy will still be dead. Oh well, it’s something to think about.

o

“At 7 hours after the peak, it was 20R/hr and falling. In 2 days it would be 2R/hr and falling. In an absolute emergency, we could go out if we had to, but not for very long. At the end of 2 weeks, we could spend half days topside, but I don’t recommend it.”

“What are we going to do until then?”

“We have several hundred movies, watch TV. They’re a box of books somewhere and some of them are Tom Clancy. Do the Gunny Highway thing.”

“What are you going to do?”

“Eat, sleep, monitor the radio and clean my guns, with time out for potty breaks. I’ll probably smoke a few packs of cigarettes and drink a lot of coffee. What I’m not going to do is worry about it, that’s why I bought a CD V-717.”

“You should quit smoking; it’s going to kill you.”

“I’ll tell you what, you guarantee I won’t die and I’ll quit.”

“Everybody dies.”

“Right. I get there my way and you get there your way.”

“Do you need guns to do that?”

“I hope not. Would you prefer to have a gun and not need it or to need a gun and not have it?”

“How bad was it out in California when you had the earthquake?”

“It could have been worse. We didn’t get killed and our house didn’t fall down. The earthquake valve shut off the gas supply and I had a 7kw portable generator and 3 drums of gas. I also had my shiny new M1A rifle.”

“How many people did you shoot?”

“Never even had to fire the gun.”

“Could you?”

“It’s never been put to the test. I don’t really know. If someone messed with your grandchildren, could you?”

“In a New York Minute.”

◦

A New York minute is a very short period of time, sometimes significantly shorter than sixty seconds, and sometimes a form of hyperbole for “perhaps faster than you would believe is possible”. The term refers to the common perception that New York City is very busy, with much happening at all hours of the day, and people often in a hurry and likely to be impatient.

It is a joke, especially in New York City, to define a New York minute as the amount of time between the light in front of you turning green and the taxicab behind you honking, and to suggest this may actually be half a second or so, or a negative quantity of time. A New York minute may be compared to the idea of Internet time, and contrasted with those of a country mile and Colored People’s Time. This usage may have inspired use of the same term to mean “intense verbal abuse”. Colored People’s Time, Colored-People Time, CP Time, or CPT, is an American expression (potentially pejorative) referring to a stereotype of African Americans as less scrupulous at keeping commitments in a timely fashion. It is often used self-referentially (in other words, by African Americans themselves).

“John, it’s ok for one black to call another black by the N word, but never appropriate for a white person to use the term. Take my word for it; I have 2 mixed race grandchildren. I learned the term CPT from Jasper Minniefield, Sharon’s boss at Gibraltar Savings. He and I joked about it. A country mile is an informal term used to mean a great distance, significantly longer than a real mile. The term has a number of possible derivations.”

◦

Jasper also bought me my first IBM computer, an XT, and I worked it off creating Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets for him. That was when the XT came out. At the time, the machine operated on PC DOS and it was another friend who got me to use Windows 3.1. The longest I ever used any OS was Windows 2000. I only went to XP when my home built computer died. That’s about right because Microsoft is about to bring out Vista. There is a website you can go to and test your computer to see if it can handle Windows Vista. My computer was overkill for the OS. You needed 800Mhz or faster processor, 15Gb free HDD space, 512 Mb of memory and a video card that could run DirectX v. 9. I had too much speed, too much HDD space, too much memory and was using v. 9. My computer probably wouldn’t work.

◦

The first 2 weeks, 343 hours, were absolutely boring. We had a chance to get really well acquainted with our in-laws, a good thing. We loaded all of the rifle and pistol magazines using the 9 for 10 rule, ergo, 18 rounds in a 20 round mag and 27 in a 30 round mag. The mags for my .45 held 8 and I just loaded them with 8. I couldn’t decide how I

wanted to load the shotgun, all 00, all slugs or a mix. I went with half and half, every other round was a slug and the first round was 12-pellet 00. The loads with more pellets kick more, or so I've been told. I ain't one those 113 pound weaklings, I got about 35 pounds on that. I guess that makes me a 148 pound weakling. I thought about it and decided I'd probably never have to shoot the gun.

If there was any way I could do it, I wanted to carry my rifles, .45 and shotgun. I got John and Derek to see if there was some way to modify my chair to carry the guns. My chest pack could carry 14 M1A magazines and my pistol belt all of my .45 magazines. I had a bandoleer for shotgun shells. All I had to figure out was were to store the magazines for the Mini-14. The separate vest I had for it held 16 magazines. I used the center pocket for a map of the local area. John suggested I drape the .223 vest over the left arm of the chair. I could lay the M1A across the arms and they figure some way to mount some canvas scabbards for the shotgun and Ruger. Right, I keep 10 yards of heavy canvas in the shelter just in case I need to build scabbards for the saddles I didn't have for the horses we didn't own. My wheelchair is the type with the little joy stick and has 5 speed settings, ranging from take your lunch with you to 5mph. I'd need it if I wanted to get out and about.

Say, do you watch CSI? When the CSIs arrive at the scene, they never turn on the lights and instead search the scene using flashlights. I've never seen them dust the light switch for prints, so why don't they just turn on the lights?

Right on schedule at 14 days, the radiation level was 200mR/hr. Although it would be another 11 days before full egress, we began the KIO₃ treatments in preparation for leaving to have a look around. We did that for 3 days and recharged the dosimeters. A maximum of 6 people could go. The group consisted of Derek, John, Mary's two brothers and me. We hadn't done a good job of circling the wagons, Damon was in Britt and Amy and Lorrie in Palmdale.

News was spotty at best. We knew the cities the terrorists hit but no details. I was guessing that the government hadn't gone to the cities waiting for the radiation to die down. I'm not going to repeat the effects of a 1mT ground burst, see my previous story. None of them were close to us anyway. Fallout generally leaves a long narrow path if the winds are high or a short wide path if they aren't. We started at John's home and he grabbed some clean clothing and his reserve supply of meds. We did the same for Jack and Ray and then hit Derek's, emptying refrigerators as we went. Power had been localized and mostly restored to the area. I don't know why we were still on generator power.

The sign on the Wal-Mart in Flippin said they were open from 10am to 2pm 7 days a week. I asked John what he took and he said Diovan 160 BID and Prevacid QD. I had enough of that for both of us, and I told him if he was willing to use doctors' samples, I had him covered. We didn't make it back to Gassville before a Deputy pulled us over. He looked like a Starship Trooper in the getup he was wearing.

"The radiation is too high for you to be out just yet fellas."

“We’re wearing dosimeters, Deputy, and are only about 5 miles from home. Have you heard anything about what happened?”

“It was a massive terrorist attack using nuclear weapons. Now there is some kind of bug going around and they don’t know if it is related to sanitary conditions or some bio-weapon. I recommend that you get home and monitor the radio for reports the CDC will be issuing.”

“I thought that Atlanta got hit.”

“It did, but that’s not the only facility that the CDC has. You fellas need anything?”

“No, we have food, water and power and a means to defend ourselves in the unlikely event that become necessary.”

“Do you have a stamp for that suppressor on your rifle?”

“At home in my safe, stop by anytime and I can show it to you. Give me some paper and I give you our address.”

“Could I see some ID?”

We showed him and he wrote it all down. I told him that the federal stamp was at my address. I didn’t see any sense in telling him that it wasn’t my only suppressor. The only reason I like the Surefire Suppressors is their long life, 30,000 rounds; the barrel would be worn out long before the suppressor failed. Neither Derek nor I had enough ammo to wear out the barrels unless we got into a firefight and overheated them.

“Say, do you have any word on cleanup?”

“I know they haven’t started. I heard a rumor that they know who was behind this and are considering their options.”

“Been any trouble?” John asked.

“Couple of break-ins the morning of the attacks. One grocery store and a gun store. They were in and out of the gun store before we could respond. Took 2 rifles, 2 pistols and 2 shotguns plus ammo. Then they hit the grocery store going in through the loading dock. Their alarm didn’t have backup power. Manager said they got about a grand worth of canned goods. Could have been the same bunch or maybe not. You’d better get moving, the radiation is still up a little.”

o

“I sure wish I knew my algebra better.”

“Why Dad?”

“Because, there has to be a formula to describe radioactive decay.”

“There is, Dad. Using that seven-ten rule of yours, the fallout level can be measured very simply, but not elegant. Where the exponential n is used to modify two numbers, you can make a chart. For example, where $n=1$, the time factor is 7 to the first power and the residual radiation is 0.1 to the first power. Where $n=2$, the time factor is 7 to the second power or 49 and the residual radiation is 0.1 to the second power or 0.01. I’d have to fuss with it a little to either polish the formula or make a graph, but you get the idea. It would probably be easy to graph it on log paper, which should give you a straight line.”

“Sorry Derek, I don’t have any logarithmic graph paper.”

“How long would it take you to make a spreadsheet?”

“Plain or fancy?”

“Plain.”

“Five Minutes.”

“Fancy?”

“Ten minutes.”

◦

I began to look for Damon and Lorrie and Amy to show up. In *Lights Out*, it took the main character’s brother months to show up after an apparent EMP attack. Knowing her, she’d find a vehicle and gas, even if she had to borrow it at the point of a gun; she had the throw down. I made a joke about where we lived, calling it ‘Beantown’, and then explained that the name of the town was Gassville. She wasn’t likely to forget that, her memory for my gaffs was perfect.

Survival Story – Chapter 11

Damon would no doubt come up with a shotgun and a hacksaw. After that, he'd find a van or something, load up his kids and come on down. My boys both served, Damon was an ET in the Navy and Derek loves Armor. On top of that, he'd been an MP in Kosovo and Iraq, so he knew the military side of the law. These days Derek was in a counterfire unit and Damon was trying to get his meds worked out. His situation with his ex and Derek's situation with his ex-wife absolutely proved that there is no such thing as an amicable divorce.

To be perfectly honest, I had the same problem with the boys' mother, but I think there's a rule that says, 'Don't badmouth the dead'. It was amiable as all get out, until she got a lawyer. It was even amicable after, for about 2 years. Then she changed her mind and wanted the kids.

Fortunately, John had a heavy canvas tarp and we brought it back and solved the scabbard problem. It's not a good idea to sew canvas on a \$2,000 Viking so Sharon used her White portable (and muttered the whole time). They mounted the Ruger on the right and the shotgun on the left and I was ready to rumble, if we ever got out of this stinking hole in the ground.

"Reading?"

"100mR/hr."

"How long has it been?"

"615 hours."

"Damn."

"What?"

"I did something right for a change. What day is it?"

"July 30th."

"Too late to plant a garden, huh?"

"Might be easier to go to the grocery store."

"I've got to start taking vitamin C."

"Why?"

"In 2 days it will be August. I always get a cold in August and unless I take vitamin C and use the nebulizer, I really get sick."

"Why?"

"Because I smoke and have COPD."

Yes, I should stop smoking but I'd still have COPD. It was getting to the point where it was easier to list what I didn't have. I had trouble maintaining my blood sugar and seemed to have regular episodes of hypoglycemia. It's easy for others to tell, I get a dumb look on my face and can't answer any questions I'm asked. When my blood sugar gets back to normal, I can talk but still have the dumb look. I guess one out of two ain't bad. Marie had recurrent melanoma that finally metastasized. It went into her lungs and they operated. That happened right around the time of the earthquake. I'm fairly sure she had not more than 9 months to go when I last talked to her. Of course, her folks were in denial and guess who had to explain it to them?

I once said to a doctor, "Aren't you going to chew me out for smoking?"

His reply, "Why? If you don't quit, you'll get sick and I make a lot of money treating your illness."

Everybody said thanks and left. I got out the garden hose and washed the house down. Then I took the CD V-715 and checked the radiation level around the house. And, then I washed the water away from the house. It was only then that I realized I'd left my wheelchair and everything in the basement. Note to self: Install handrails. Anyway, I unwound the winch and got to the basement. I turned everything off except the generator, it was between oil changes, and hooked my chair to the winch. Then the winch and the chair gave me and my guns a ride to the top. I sent a handheld CB with Derek so once I was on the deck I called him with my handheld.

"What?"

"You'd better come back and get some food and your guns. I have gasoline if you need to fill your tank."

"Is everything ok at your house?"

"I washed the house down and then washed the water away from the house. I got my wheelchair and guns upstairs, what's not to be ok?"

"We had a break in."

"What did they take?"

"Nothing, I figure they must have been looking for food."

“Come back and get food and your guns. If they come back you can do whatever you must to protect Mary and the kids. You’d better contact the Police and report the break-in. Do you need the generator?”

“No, everything is on.”

“I’ll have to go and see if the generator is still running.”

“I’ll do it when I come back.”

“When you have time, we need to add handrails to that ramp. I used the winch to let me down, but I wouldn’t have except I left my chair in the basement.”

“You should probably just buy some railings and we can attach them with lag bolts.”

“I’ll have to engineer it first.”

“Break 17.”

“Go ahead breaker.”

“The police are monitoring channel 9 if you need to contact them. I heard one of you say that everything was back on, but the phones are still down. It will be a couple of days before they’re back up.”

“Rog, thanks.”

“Dad, base plus 10.”

I switched to channel 29.

“I’ve switched.”

“We shouldn’t have been putting info on the air like that. I’ll be over in a bit, what’s for supper?”

o

It was lose-lose. More than once someone tried to tell me what to do. Imagine my outstretched hand, see, I’m an amputee. I lost my pinkie, ring finger, index finger and thumb. My one remaining finger is outstretched, what did Goose call it, The Bird?

Charlie: Eh lieutenant, what were you doing there?

Goose: Communicating.

Maverick: Communicating. Keeping up foreign relations. You know, giving him the bird!

Goose: [Charlie looks puzzled, so Goose clarifies] You know, the finger [gestures appropriately]

Charlie: Yes, I know the finger, Goose.

Goose: I-I'm sorry, I hate it when it does that, I'm sorry. Excuse me.

I could have done with more of the flying and less of the bedroom stuff, but it's one of my favorites. Point being, it's hard to flip someone the bird over the internet or a CB radio. My boys and I served because it was our duty, we weren't drafted. I didn't tell them to go into the service, but I did offer it as a choice. When Damon wanted to go, I suggested the Navy because he was interested in electronics. I didn't know about his problems back then, they lived with their mother.

o

Derek wanted to go into the Army, his choice. Eventually, he got into armor and worked his way up from a driver to a loader to a gunner to a commander. However, once he got home, the Guard didn't have an Armor unit close to him. Neither did they have an MP unit so he became a counterfire radar operator. Odds are he'll serve until he has 30, who knows. Thing was, ATM, he was needed at home. If he had to go, there wouldn't be any little birdie, he'd go. Mary was in the Army too, that's where he met her. She can shoot good and he's outstanding. Sharon used to go hunting with her father and is very familiar with a shotgun. You come our way there will be an old guy in a wheelchair and two women you ought not to mess with. If Sharon runs out of shells she'll snatch your hair out until you're bald. (I wear a butch)

Normally, the first position on a tank is as the loader. However in his case, they had a new loader and needed a driver so he was the driver until it was time for the loader to move up to driver and they switched places. He then became the gunner and became very skilled at that. They qualified the M256 with near maximum scores.

I told you that he got the knives sharp didn't I? Anyway, he kept Rambo II and Rambo III; I finally got First Blood sharp top and bottom. Rambo III has an 11" blade and a 5¼" top edge. It was similar to the Model 12 "The Smithsonian Bowie" – 11" blade, 2¼" wide, of ⅜" stock. (01 carbon tool steel) Top cutting edge sharpened. 5¼" (approximate) leather handle. Brass lugged hilt. Duralumin butt cap. A replica of the famous Bowie knife of a century ago, similar to type displayed in the Smithsonian and used in the motion picture The Iron Mistress (Alan Ladd). (Wt. 28-34 oz.) Price: \$520. (Russell made knife.)

Except Rambo wasn't made by Randall, and was ¼" stock about 2" wide. All of the big Randall Bowie knives are the same price, \$520. I paid \$100 apiece for my 3 Rambo knives; they get very sharp and hold a good edge. If I ever have to skin anything again, I'll borrow my Bear skinning knife I bought when I was in the Air Force from Derek. No doubt if I'd had a third son, he'd have gone in the Marines.

The answer to his question was fried chicken, Sharon and taken out two bags for some reason even she couldn't explain. She put fresh grease in the fryer and had french fried potatoes.

"I checked and I'm out of a job for a month. They don't want to build any more boats until they see where the country is headed."

"Take some extra food then, Derek. I've been worried about WW III for so long I forget about the possibility of a terrorist attack. How, in the name of God, did they manage to smuggle in that many weapons?"

"My neighbor said he heard that some weren't smuggled in, they were in containers in our ports. He went on to say that Iran and Saudi Arabia provided the funding."

"Did he say what we were going to do about it?"

"He didn't know. The problem is, if we attack Iran and Saudi Arabia, it will cut the oil supply to us and Europe."

"Are you going to be activated?"

"I haven't heard, but it doesn't matter, I'll report in the morning. I should have gone today, but I wanted to make sure Mary was squared away."

"Mary, if you have a problem with rent or anything, you can always move in here. We'll put your stuff in storage or store it at you Dad's. Take everything you need, we have plenty. I don't know if we got my disability check or our pensions, but once the phones are up, I can always call Iowa. I think this qualifies as an extraordinary circumstance."

We finished up dinner and Mary loaded the dishwasher for Sharon. Derek and I went to the basement and began selecting what Mary would need for a couple of months. I wasn't a lot of help, but I knew where everything was. BTW, the generator was shut down. The room was so well sound proofed you couldn't tell unless you opened the door. He took a case of every kind of veggie we had, pasta, meat, Coke, and cigarettes. I hauled 2 bundles each of toilet paper and paper towels up to the pickup.

"We've got to get going; it's about time for the kids to go to bed. Is there anything you need?"

"I could use a couple of cases of hand grenades, a SINCGARS radio and a bunch of other stuff. I have a list somewhere."

"I meant is there anything you need that I can get?"

"Nope."

o

I assume he left the next morning, the phones were still out and Mary probably went over to her parents in Flippin. I did what I could to help Sharon and we dusted, vacuumed and did laundry. Later we went down to the basement and picked out some things we need to stock our shelves in the house. I had one of those flatbeds like you see at Costco and it had an eyebolt that I could connect the winch to. Once we were loaded up, she went back to the house to work on the laundry and I used the winch to pull the flatbed up to ground level. She came out and helped me push it up the wheelchair ramp to the front deck. We did need some things we didn't have: milk, eggs and bread. There was powdered milk and eggs and Sharon could bake bread if we couldn't get fresh food from a grocery.

The cops were going door to door checking on everyone. When he showed up, I asked.

"Are there any grocery stores open?"

"Wal-Mart in Flippin is open starting tomorrow, what did you need?"

"Milk, eggs and bread."

"Gee, I don't know, I guess you just have to drive over and see. Everybody here ok?"

"Yes, we had a shelter."

"Do you have a CCW for that pistol?"

"We haven't lived in Arkansas one year yet. The way I read the law, I'm not eligible."

"Where did you come from?"

"California."

"Anywhere near that earthquake they had?"

"Right on top of it, we lived in Palmdale which is on the San Andreas Fault."

"I can see why you moved here."

"Didn't do much good. Out of the frying pan and into the fire. Do you have any news on what the government is going to do about the attack?"

"Not officially, but if you have a shelter, I'd restock it."

"Do you know if we can get propane?"

"I think they're open. You don't have natural gas?"

"I didn't want to pay to have the line run. Besides, in an emergency the natural gas might get cut off and I'd still have to run my generator on propane."

"You know you can contact us on channel 9 if you have an emergency?"

"Thank you, I heard."

We were getting our propane from AmeriGas in Mountain Home. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough cash on hand to buy what we'd need. Man, did I need a phone! We couldn't even buy many groceries, but then, we didn't need many. It fell to me to determine what we needed so I got a tablet and went back to the basement. I listed everything we had removed from storage and it looked like about \$750. I checked the freezer and decided we needed a case of chickens, a case of pork loins, a dozen beef roasts and about 50# of ground beef. That would probably run another \$750. There were 2 cartons of Marlboro and only 8 cartons of Kool's. I needed 8 of the former and 12 of the latter. Crap, figure \$600 minimum. Then, I checked the propane tanks. It appeared we'd burned up about 100 gallons @ \$2.25 per. When I could get on the phone, I'd have to explain about not getting our government and retirement checks and ask for \$5,000 to \$7,500.

Diesel fuel cost double what propane was going for. When I stuck the tank, it appeared we'd burned around 1,900 gallons. We hadn't gotten the tank full before this crap went down and only had a 5 month supply at 100% power.

I had to refill prescriptions, top off the barrels of gasoline in the basement and buy more ammo, if I could get it. Derek wasn't here now to tell me I never need over 1,000 rounds. Damon and his kids plus Amy and Lorrie and their kids were MIA; they should have been here by now. This was what they call a 3 Xanax moment. Sometimes my brain goes into overdrive and I am forced to use chemical means to shut it down. I had a lot of that on hand, it was on my never too much of list.

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"Matt, Gary Ott... Yes, it was pretty bad, but we had the shelter and got through it ok. I didn't receive my disability check or my pension because of the attack. Sharon didn't get hers either... She did, oh that's right it's deposited in the saving account in your bank. I need a little help, how much is there in the checking account? \$2,500? I don't suppose there is any way you could let me have another \$5,000 is there? You could? Why that much? I see, was Damon ok? When did he leave? In that case, he should be here fairly soon. Just put Derek's in my account and I'll write Mary a check. He's on duty with the Guard. Thanks Matt."

Damon had been to the bank and persuaded Matt to give him \$10,000. Matt was going to keep things even and give each of the beneficiary's the same amount. Damon, Derek

and Sharon were the beneficiary's. I said thanks because he had already put Sharon's in our account and said he'd deposit Derek's check immediately. That gave Sharon and me \$12,500 to get squared away. I figured I better take any leftover money out in cash, just in case. Meanwhile, we needed to drive to Mountain Home plus stop by Derek's on the way to give Mary the check.

There is a Wal-Mart in Mountain Home and that was where we began our shopping after we stopped by AmeriGas. I'd say that we made out fair. I got Sharon to take me by Bob's Guns and I bought more ammo. We went home, unloaded and headed to Flippin to the Wal-Mart store there. That's the store where I fill our prescriptions, so we took care of that. I also picked up a little ammo in addition to the food and supplies we needed.

Now it was the reverse, loading up the flatbed and lowering it to the basement. Plus, I had to cut up the pork loins. It must have been 7pm by the time we finished. Sharon ordered pizza. We were just sitting down to eat when Damon pulled in with his 3 kids. She called back and ordered 2 more pizzas, one combo and one pepperoni for me.

"I went to the bank in Charles City."

"I know. Did you find a shotgun?"

"I bought an 870 8-shot and a case each of 12 pellet and slugs. How did you know?"

"I consulted my crystal ball. Have any trouble getting here?"

"Not really. Got stopped by the cops a lot and had to show my ID and explain where I was going."

Damon's kids are: Britney 16, Aaron 14 and Eric 12. If two pizzas wasn't enough to fill them up, I'd get out a 50# bag of popcorn and pop some of that. One down and 2 to go.

"Did you get guns for the kids?"

"Carrie would have had a hissy."

"How did you manage to talk her into letting them come down with you?"

"Don't ask; I'm not going to answer that. I persuaded her."

"How's the gun work?"

"Don't know I haven't shot it yet."

That told me all I needed to know, she and her husband weren't floating in Clear Lake. We visited while we ate and after supper, Sharon showed the kids where they'd be

sleeping. Damon got the ammo out of the back of his vehicle and we took it to the shelter. Because I hadn't had the gas tank topped off yet, I asked if he needed to fill his tank. He did and then proceeded to fill 5 5-gallon gas cans.

"Tomorrow morning you can fill the drums in the generator room of the shelter from the gas tank using those cans. Then I'll call and have the gas tank refilled."

"Are you expecting more trouble?"

"A cop came by and when he found out that I had a shelter, he suggested that I restock it. Sharon and I spent the entire day doing just that. AmeriGas is bringing by about 100 gallons of propane tomorrow and I want to refill my farm tank and get it stabilized."

"Where is Derek?"

"Fort Chafee. He reported to his unit yesterday morning."

"Where're Amy and Lorrie?"

"Darned if I know. As much as I hate saying it, I hope they show up soon."

"I suppose that you feel the same way about me."

"Nah, you admit you're crazy. Derek is the only sane one in the bunch. How are you on meds?"

"I'm a bit short, I didn't stock up like you told me to."

"We'll fix that tomorrow, if we do have to use the shelter again, I don't want you down there going crazy."

"What makes you think we'll need the shelter? What that cop told you?"

"No son, bad things happen in three's."

"What are you thinking, another terrorist attack?"

"I'm thinking that Dubya is going to exact revenge for the bombings. It was probably either al Qaeda or Hezbollah. Maybe with the participation of HAMAS or one of the other Muslim terrorist groups. I heard maybe Saudi Arabia and or Iran helped fund it."

"Chit."

"Exactly."

That was the most exercise I'd gotten in about 4 years. I was so tired I didn't need a Xanax to get to sleep. I ran the oxygen machine that night, hoping to regain some energy.

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"What's for breakfast?"

"Pancakes ok?"

"Sure."

"Did you sleep ok?"

"I haven't slept that sound in a very long time, how about you?"

"I slept ok. I have a feeling that Amy and Lorrie will show up today and that will be the end of my getting a good night's sleep."

"I need to take the boys to Bob's Guns today."

"What are you going to get them?"

"Anything I can find in .223 that takes an M16 magazine."

Damon and I went back to Mountain Home. He paid for 3 Bushmaster 20" barrel semi-auto M16A3s, 3 mounted Aimpoint sights and 30 magazines. I was a local so I purchased them using his money and didn't mention that they were for the 3 kids. I also bought one case of .223 ammo that I paid for. That was all that the store had available. Damon also wanted the Browning Hi-Powers when he saw them in the case. We bought 4 of those, extra 13 round magazines and 2,000 rounds of 9mm Gold Dot 124gr +P. That took care of most of his cash. I bought each kid a Cold Steel SK5 Laredo bowie knife and Damon a FGX Boot Blade I.

There is a surplus store in Mountain Home. Some say that the guy who runs it isn't nice to deal with and is overpriced on everything he sells. I figure that if he had what we wanted, military holsters, pistol belts, two canteen pouches with stainless canteen, one cup, one stove, heat tabs and magazine pouches, I couldn't care less. Instead of magazine pouches, I got Damon shotgun shell pouches. Some of this stuff dated back to Vietnam but cost like it had been made by Blackhawk.

When we got home, the girls were there looking pretty grim. They had Udell 6, Audrey 8, Jeffrey 4 and Baby (who knows) with them. Baby immediately tried to assert herself as the Alpha female. Scrappy would have to stand on Missy's back to look Baby in the eye, Baby won.

“Hey kid, did you bring back my throw down?”

“Not all of the bullets.”

“Give it to me and I’ll clean it. I’ll take you to Mountain Home tomorrow and we’ll get Lorie and you each a 9mm pistol.”

Survival Story – Chapter 12

I had 4 more boxes of the 71gr FMJ for the .32 pistol in the basement. I figured we use up the some of the ball ammo teaching everyone to shoot and I'd replace it with new ammo. The feed ramp needed polishing and Bob got that done. I wasn't sure that it was a good idea to give Eric the 9mm pistol just yet; he was only 12 and had behavior problems. The girls were stressed to the max and I was tempted to offer them each a Xanax, but didn't. Amy hadn't taken very good care of my little pistol, either.

"You're back?"

"Yes, my two daughters just moved to Arkansas last night and I need to get them each a pistol."

"Did you stop by the DMV and get them Arkansas IDs or licenses?"

"Should I?"

"I'd recommend it."

"We'll be back. We'll need 2 9mm Hi-Power Classics and 4 extra 13-round magazines per pistol. Say, do you carry Speer ammo?"

"I have some in 9mm."

"I'll buy that right now if it's ok."

"I have 2 cases of 124gr Lawman."

"Perfect, how much?"

I paid for the ammo and we headed to the DMV. On the way back we stopped at the surplus store and I put up with a little more abuse to get the girls equipped with belts, holsters, mag pouches, etc. Then we went back to Bob's and bought the two pistols and the extra magazines. I asked about the Bushmaster's but he recommended 870s and they were much cheaper. I bought a case each of 12-pellet and slugs. I asked if he could get more ammo and he said he wasn't sure, but he would try. Next, I asked about knives and he had those so they were added to the purchase. He'd ordered 4,000 rounds of Speer Gold Dot 124gr +P, good stuff.

That took care of the kids; they had the means to defend themselves if it came to that. The only way I could get any peace and quiet was to sleep in the shelter. That was a good idea considering I was thinking it would take one more emergency to put life back into balance. It would have been totally ok with me if we hadn't had the big one out in California and terrorists hadn't set off nuclear weapons around the country. However,

based on Dubya's track record, it wouldn't be long before he ordered strikes on those thought to be guilty of involvement in the bombings.

My dirty little secret was that I voted for him both times. If you consider the choices in the 2000 and 2004 elections, I had no regrets; Dubya was the lesser of 2 evils. I remembered the '60s and early '70s when we were bogged down in Vietnam. I didn't object to people expressing opinions about the war, this is a free country. They went too far, spitting on returning soldiers and calling them baby killers. We didn't have the parades for our returning heroes. Those of us with the names of friends and family on the wall were more inclined to blame the Administration and the politicians who insisted on running the war from Washington. The track records of most administrations show that Republicans do better on foreign policy and Democrats do better on domestic policy.

Those days are long gone; people these days have different expectations. I blame the government for that due to the increasing intrusion into our lives. Read this and tell me what's to interpret:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

1. Form a more perfect Union
2. establish Justice
3. insure domestic Tranquility
4. provide for the common defense
5. promote the general Welfare
6. secure the Blessing of Liberty

The remainder of the document describes how the government goes about doing those things. At least, that's the theory. It creates a set of checks and balances to keep one branch from gaining too much power; an 18th century version of paper, scissors, stone. The problem is we've been interpreting the document since it was adopted. There isn't any doubt where I stand on the issues; I'm a loyal, but moderately conservative, Republican.

I have no trouble accepting Social Security Disability; I paid the required amount for 24 years, 96 quarters. When I became disabled I applied and was accepted on my first application. The same applies to my retirement. I get 19/30 of a discounted percentage. The discount is based on age 65 and I lost a percentage for every year I retired early. Instead of monthly payments of \$1,400, I get \$600. I applied because I was already on disability. I contacted IPERS and asked that they deposit my payments in my Iowa account. I'm sure they were just running late, no major city in Iowa was hit.

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The beauty of sleeping in the shelter was the absolute quiet. I was still tired, running to Mountain Home 2 straight days buying guns and that very long day when we went shopping. I slept like a log and didn't even hear Damon and his kids come down and grab bunks.

The next morning, the smell of fresh brewed coffee woke me. I got up, used the bathroom, put on my robe before sitting down to the table to drink the coffee I thought Sharon made and brought down.

"Good morning!"

My heart must have skipped three beats before I realized it was Damon.

"When did you come down here?"

"Last night. With Amy and Lorrie here, you were short on beds. Mary called and said that Derek would be home on Friday night. She said he had something for you but wouldn't say what it was."

"Maybe he was able to get some M16 magazines."

"She'd have said so if that was what he had. What did you ask him for?"

"Hand grenades, a SINCGARS radio and M16 magazines. I had some other things I wanted but didn't mention them."

"Like what?"

"LAWs."

"You can't have grenades or LAWs."

"Not legally. I think we still in for a very bad experience, if I'm right we'll need everything we can lay our hands on."

"Did you ever buy the M82A1?"

"By the time you buy the rifle, a good scope and some ammo, you have 10 grand tied up so I haven't been able to buy one. Anyway, I changed my mind and want a Tac-50."

"What's a Tac-50; and, out of curiosity, what kind of ammo?"

"Last question first, Mk 211, Raufoss Multi-Purpose. The McMillan Tac-50 came out around 2001 or 2002. It's guaranteed to shoot 0.5MOA groups. A complete rifle package including the scope, etc. is less than an M82A1M. It's a bolt action and you can install a suppressor. McMillan sells the Elite Iron suppressor but Mike's Guns in Texas

sells a titanium suppressor called the Jet suppressor. It cost double the Elite Iron but is lighter.”

“You won’t be able to get that?”

“I priced it all out and it would run about 13 grand with the Elite Iron suppressor and another grand with the Jet suppressor. That doesn’t include night vision. That’s with two magazines and I’d need 8 more at about \$400 each.”

“What does the ammo cost?”

“I have no idea, but I did a web search and I think I found a store that sells it for a shade over \$5 a round plus shipping for Hornady A-MAX 750gr Match. Of course, if you get caught with Raufoss, they’ll put you in the slam. It’s HEIAP.”

“Huh?”

“The round combines armor-piercing, explosive, and incendiary effects and uses a highly effective pyrotechnically initiated fuze that delays detonation of the main projectile charge until after initial target penetration – moving projectile fragmentation and damage effect inside the target for maximum anti-personnel and fire start effect. While the round can be used in sniper rifles similar to the Barrett M82A1/M107, it has the equivalent firing power of a 20 mm projectile to include such targets as helicopters, aircraft, light armor vehicles, ships and light fortifications, and can ignite JP4 and JP8 military jet fuel. It is manufactured under license by several American companies.”

“High Explosive would be military only.”

“That’s why I said you’d end up in the slammer.”

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When Derek showed up on Friday night, he had 4 boxes with him that he put in the armory in the basement. He put a note on them that said, “Do Not Open until TSHTF.”

“What’s in the boxes?”

“Nothing.”

“Then why can’t I look inside?”

“You can when TSHTF. I’m going to buy a rifle.”

“What kind?”

“An Armalite AR-50.”

“Can you get ammo?”

“I should be able to. I’ll have more boxes later on; they’re issuing ammo and equipment in case the President has to suspend Posse Comitatus.”

“Why would he do that?”

“It’s just rumor, but he’s getting ready to retaliate for the bombings. The stuff in the boxes was distributed among several NCOs so we didn’t have all of our eggs in one basket.”

“I never heard of them doing anything like that before.”

“We’ve never been on the verge of WW III before.”

“Wrong! October 1962 we came about oh so close.”

“So what have you been doing?”

“Got the shelter restocked, on the advice of a local cop. Your brother showed up and we went to Mountain Home and armed his kids. Then Amy and Lorrie pulled in and I took them and armed them too. If you can get your hands on an M-9, I have plenty of 9mm ammo.”

“What did you buy?”

“Some Bushmaster rifles, some Remington 870s and a whole lot of the Browning Hi-Powers. Why do you think we’ll have a war? I’d guess the attitude of the country would support it, but who would we be fighting with?”

“Russia and China. The rumor mill says that Iran and the Saudis funded the attacks and those countries support Iran. It doesn’t matter if we attack or the Israelis attack, we’re going to take the blame. You do know that Bush has never said we wouldn’t make a first strike.”

“Who is running the country?”

“Bush. Cheney survived too. They had to replace Rumsfeld with Gordon England, but the Pentagon made it through the attack mostly intact.”

“Why haven’t you been federalized?”

“Governor Beebe refused the President’s request.”

“Why?”

“I have no idea.”

“Isn’t England the guy from General Dynamics who was never in the service?”

“That’s the guy.”

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The Rumsfeld Doctrine and the Powell Doctrine had little in common. The Rumsfeld Doctrine is primarily concerned with the transformation of the US Military. It would be considered Rumsfeld’s own take on RMA (Revolution in Military Affairs). It seeks to increase force readiness and decrease the amount of supply required to maintain forces, by reducing the number in a theater. This is done mainly by using LAVs to scout for enemies who are then destroyed via air strikes. The basic tenets of this military strategy are:

- High technology combat systems
- Reliance on air forces
- Small, nimble ground forces

Afghanistan and the Iraq wars are considered the two closest implementations of this doctrine.

The Powell Doctrine simply asserts that when a nation is engaging in war, every resource and tool should be used to achieve overwhelming force against the enemy. This may oppose the principle of proportionality, but there are grounds to suppose that principles of Just War may not be violated. The questions posed by the Powell Doctrine:

- Is a vital national security interest threatened?
- Do we have a clear attainable objective?
- Have the risks and costs been fully and frankly analyzed?
- Have all other non-violent policy means been fully exhausted?
- Is there a plausible exit strategy to avoid endless entanglement?
- Have the consequences of our action been fully considered?
- Is the action supported by the American people?
- Do we have genuine broad international support?

Both men are military veteran’s, Rumsfeld a Naval Aviator who flew the F9F and retired in the Reserves as a Captain (O-6). Powell was a General (O-10).

The Foster Doctrine comes from Pam Foster of Pamela Foster and Associates in Atlanta. It’s a very simple doctrine:

WHAT’S ALL OF THE FUSS?

“Are we fighting a war on terror or aren’t we? Was it or was it not started by Islamic people who brought it to our shores on September 11, 2001?”

“Were people from all over the world, mostly Americans, not brutally murdered that day, in downtown Manhattan, across the Potomac from our nation’s capital and in a field in Pennsylvania? Did nearly three Thousand men, women and children die a horrible, burning or crushing Death that day, or didn’t they?”

“And I’m supposed to care that a copy of the Koran was “desecrated” when an over-worked American soldier kicked it or got it wet? Well, I don’t; I don’t care at all.

“I’ll start caring when Osama bin Laden turns himself in and repents for incinerating all those innocent people on 9/11.

“I’ll care about the Koran when the fanatics in the Middle East start caring about the Holy Bible, the mere possession of which is a crime In Saudi Arabia

“I’ll care when Abu Musab al-Zarqawi tells the world he is sorry for hacking off Nick Berg’s head while Berg screamed through his gurgling, slashed throat.

“I’ll care when the cowardly so-called “insurgents” in Iraq come out and fight like men instead of disrespecting their own religion by hiding in mosques.

“I’ll care when the mindless zealots who blow themselves up in search of nirvana care about the innocent children within range of their suicide bombs.

“I’ll care when the American media stops pretending that their First Amendment liberties are somehow derived from international law instead of the United State Constitution’s Bill of Rights.

“In the meantime, when I hear a story about a brave Marine roughing up an Iraqi terrorist to obtain information, know this: I don’t care.

“When I see a fuzzy photo of a pile of naked Iraqi prisoners who have been humiliated in what amounts to a college hazing incident, rest assured that I don’t care.

“When I see a wounded terrorist get shot in the head when he is told not to move because he might be booby-trapped, you can take it to the bank that I don’t care.

“When I hear that a prisoner, who was issued a Koran and a Prayer mat, and fed ‘special’ food that is paid for by my tax dollars, is complaining that his holy book is being ‘mishandled’, YOU can absolutely believe in your heart of hearts that I don’t care.

“And oh, by the way, I’ve noticed that sometimes it’s spelled ‘Koran’ and other times ‘Quran’. Well, Jimmy Crack Corn and – you got it, I DON’T CARE!

“If you agree with this view point, pass this on to all your e-mail Friends. Sooner or later, it’ll get to the people responsible for this Ridiculous behavior! If you don’t agree, then by all means hit the Delete button. Should you choose the latter, then please don’t complain when more atrocities committed by radical Muslims happen here in our great country.

“If you can read this, Thank a teacher!

“If you are reading it in English, Thank a Veteran.”

It was September 11, 2001 if you disregard the first bombing of the World Trade Center by Islamic militants on 25Feb93. Either way, it was Islamic militants. We didn’t like Saddam Hussein but we dislike Iran even more. Never mind Saddam mostly used Soviet weapons, he didn’t like Iran. When it comes to foreign politics, the US has never been too particular who it got in bed with, following the Doctrine of the End justifies the Means. This phrase the ends justify the means is closely associated with Machiavelli and *The Prince*, credited with helping to advance the colonial and modern forms of imperialism. Though it should be noted, Machiavelli never wrote the phrase. A more literal translation is “One must consider the final result.”

Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one. Government, like dress, is the badge of lost innocence; the palaces of kings are built upon the ruins of the bowers of paradise. Thomas Paine 1737-1809: Common Sense (1776)

If we take it as a given that Islamic militants were responsible for 05Jul07, the next question becomes where did they get the bombs? I am reminded that one country seems to have trouble keeping track of their bombs. Did the terrorist buy them from the Russian Mafia? Maybe, maybe not, but they had to be expensive and you have to ask yourself, “Who could afford to buy 24 bombs?” If you went on to assume that they sold for \$100 million each, who has \$2.4 billion laying around? Who might be angry enough with the US to part with the money? They can deny it because their nuclear program has been under the scrutiny of the entire world for some time.

To pull this off, we need plausible deniability. That limits our delivery system to the B-2 Spirit bomber. We can’t use any of our current weapons, but we have some old dirty bombs in our reserve inventory so we’ll use those. Maybe the Mk-53, it’s dirty and we have 50 in the reserve. They have a yield of ~9mT, perfect since our largest weapon is the B83 with a yield of 1.2mT. The bomb doesn’t use Plutonium either, that’s even better. Since Pluto isn’t a planet can we still call it Plutonium? If we do, it’s named after a dog.

◦

We spent the weekend getting things around. Derek got his Armalite rifle and when I asked him about ammo he said, “Don’t worry about it, I’ll get some.” I ask him again

what was in the boxes and he reminded me he was just holding them for the Guard. I wasn't going to call him a liar, but I didn't believe him.

I was guessing that maybe a couple of the boxes were 5.56 ammo, they were about the right size. Someone has used a can of spray paint and painted over the printing on the outside of the boxes. I noticed when he left Monday morning around oh dark thirty he had Rambo II strapped on his web gear with some of that olive drab duct tape. Not ok to carry in Iraq, but ok to carry in the US of A? Strange.

I didn't expect to see him again until the weekend but he showed up Wednesday night with more boxes with the printing blacked out. His scope had come in and he spent much of the evening mounting it and using a bore sighting device to get it approximately sighted in. I was going to ask him Thursday morning, but he was gone when I got up.

The women and small kids were in the house and Damon and his kids were with me in the basement. On Thursday, Sharon and the girls went to Flippin shopping and left Damon and me to watch the kids. I plunked their butts in chairs in front of the TV and asked them which movie they wanted to watch. After I got it going, I told them to just shut up and watch the movie, I knew right where my flyswatter was (it was in Palmdale). Udell aka Junior is a terror and Jeffrey isn't much better. Put the two of them together and pretty soon you're thinking about murder. I decided to let Damon handle Junior, they're both bipolar (so is Eric).

BTW, Amy's car is a KIA Sportage. That's what they took to Wal-Mart. When they came home, they had folded all of the seats and had it crammed to the roof, probably found some pork steak.

"When we sat out that terrorist attack, we had Derek's family, Mary's parents and Sharon and me plus 4 more of Mary's relatives. That was 12 people and it used up our folding cots. Assuming we have the same people plus you, Amy and Lorrie, we're going to need more cots if we have to shelter again. You and I need to go find 9 more cots. Wal-Mart didn't have any."

"Then let's not go to Wal-Mart."

"What would you say to air beds?"

"That ought to work."

"Ok, let's go."

"Where?"

"Wal-Mart."

"You need a China fix or something?"

“Or something.”

“What was in those boxes Derek brought home?”

“It wasn’t LAWs rockets.”

“How do you know?”

“LAWs are packaged as five complete M72-series LAWs within a fiberboard inner pack for a total weight of 12.5 kilograms (27½ pounds). Three inner packs are then placed in a wire-bound wooden box, the gross weight of which is 54.5 kilograms (120 pounds). It looked more like ammo boxes than that.”

“What if he took the fiberboard boxes out of the wooden case and repacked them a cardboard box?”

“That would be stupid.”

“It would weigh 37.5 pounds less too.”

“You’re right, I hadn’t thought of that. He said he was just storing the stuff for his unit.”

“Do you believe him?”

“No.”

“Ok, we’re here. Maybe you’d just better buy a dozen single air mattresses.”

“I didn’t plan on inviting the whole town. Oh well, maybe they’re on sale.”

No sale, so I bought the ones for \$34 apiece and hoped they wouldn’t leak. They were the Coleman 4-in-1 king/twin airbed system. They were also imported, probably from China. The bonus was we could open them up and have 24 single beds. We had room and we had enough food. On the other hand we were relatively new to the area and with me not getting out much I didn’t know any people beyond Mary’s relatives. It’s hard making new friends when you’re a Yankee in Dixie. I didn’t start that darned war and I have no opinion on either side, most of the Generals were trained at West Point. Lee was the Superintendent at West Point just before the war.

At the time of the Civil War, my family lived in Pennsylvania about 50 miles west of Gettysburg in a town named McConnellsburg. They were farmers and I have no idea if they fought in the war or not. I check the internet before the big one in Palmdale and there were 13 listings in the phonebook for the name Ott in McConnellsburg. I sure that most of the ones I met were long dead but some of the little kids would be about 50 now, if

they're still alive. I saw at least 2 people who were named after my grandfather. He's been dead 50 years, he was about my age when he dropped dead from a heart attack.

If Dubya went ahead and bombed Iran, the Russia would probably feel forced to retaliate unless he was slick about it. That's why we couldn't use missiles, they could track those right back to the launch site. This situation called for the Powell Doctrine, slam them fast and hard. The Israelis couldn't be blamed, they didn't have any stealth aircraft and unless they could somehow track the B-2s, nobody could prove anything. If he tried to get cute, the jig was up.

Survival Story – Chapter 13

If we could pull it off, it would be a Corbomite Maneuver. Within the fictional Star Trek universe, “Corbomite” is itself a fictitious substance and device, carried by all Starfleet starships: Captain James T. Kirk comes up with the ruse to bluff an alien starship into not firing on the Enterprise in the episode *The Corbomite Maneuver*. In another episode, the Enterprise is being scoped by Romulan ships which are preparing to attack. Captain Kirk instructs Uhura to send a message to Starfleet using code 2, which was known to have been decoded by the Romulans, that the Enterprise was to activate the Corbomite self-destruction device and to avoid the area for a certain amount of time thereafter. The Romulans, having decoded this and thinking that such a device would destroy them as well, retreated. Those aliens couldn’t have been too advanced; they couldn’t tell that Kirk was lying.

The very first munitions the B-2 was rated as combat ready for was in 1993 and were the B61 and B83. It could carry 16 of either bomb. The maximum payload of the B-2 is 40,000 pounds. If they were sent to Iran with Mk-53, they’d actually be limited to 4 bombs because the weapons weigh 8,850 pounds. The upside to that is that we have 20 B-2s, more than enough to carry all of our biggest weapon in inventory. Not all of them are equipped to carry nukes. The Y1 version is dirty and the Y2 version is clean. We could do it unless the Russians could track us from space.

“More boxes?”

“Only six.”

“Those boxes look familiar, I think I’ve seen them on Global Security. They’re made out of fiberboard, aren’t they?”

“No comment. Look Dad, I’m just following orders. I’m not allowed to tell you what’s in the boxes so please don’t ask.”

“Ok, I won’t say anything else. I’ve got the field manual on my computer anyway and chapter 2 covers the contents of those boxes.”

“Which Field Manual?”

“FM 3-23.25. It covers the M72 and the M136.”

“How many of the field manuals do you have?”

“Close to 300.”

“Do you have one on the M14?”

“Yep, but, I don’t have anything I couldn’t get for free. Now that you’re home, I’m not allowed on Army Knowledge Online so I have to do it the hard way.”

“What’s that?”

“Copied them from Global Security into a Word document and converted the document to a pdf file. That happens to be how I got that particular manual.”

“Do you also have FM 3-23.30?”

“Grenades and Pyrotechnic Signals? You bet. So, are you home for the weekend or do you have to go back?”

“All the equipment is up and we’ve distributed our extra matériel among the NCOs. I’d like to make a suggestion but I can’t explain it.”

“Do we need to circle the wagons?”

“How did you know?”

“I didn’t. I’ve been thinking what I’d do if I were Dubya given the way he’s acted these past 6½ years. What I’d do is take some Mk-53s and load them aboard some B-2s and bomb Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

“What’s an Mk-53?”

“The biggest ones we’ve, got 9mT and dirty. We could pull it off unless someone detected the B-2s.”

“And, if that happened?”

“I think Russia would attack us. They really lost face in 1962 and I’m sure there are still people who remember. It’s a good thing we didn’t invade Cuba, they had tactical nukes that we didn’t know about until years later. If we get caught, Russia may not have a choice, politically speaking.”

“Whether it happens or not, when I leave, I’ll be taking these boxes and I won’t be back for a while. They’re now going to mobilize all of the National Guard units for cleanup.”

“Why did you bring the boxes home? Wouldn’t they have been safer at the Armory?”

“Normally we don’t keep ammo there. We were short on storage space and the Company Commander ordered the NCOs to divide it up and take it home or to somewhere they thought would be secure. We don’t usually have anything but rifles or pistols.”

“That makes sense for a counterfire radar unit.”

“We were issued additional items in the event we have to protect ourselves during the cleanup. The rules of engagement are very severe; we will be up against other Americans if we’re attacked during that time. People are going to be desperate and there could be trouble.”

“People are also going to be dead because they’ve held off as long as they have. This is Katrina times twenty-four and anyone who survived the bombing may well have died in the aftermath from radiation poisoning, lack of medical care, filthy water or lack of food.”

“All of the troops are home from Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea. Any ship that could sail left port. It’s going down this weekend, Dad.”

“Damon and I went to Wal-Mart and picked up more air mattress. We can sleep up to 24 additional people including Amy, Lorrie, Damon and the kids. When do we need to get everyone together?”

“Tomorrow morning, early. The attack is scheduled for around midnight local time. Tehran is GMT plus 3:30. Riyadh is GMT plus 3.”

“And we’re GMT minus 6. The time difference is 9 hours, so midnight over there will be 3pm here. So, are they going to warn the public?”

“No. First, it could be construed by people in the Middle East as a warning of an attack; and second, it would eliminate our plausible deniability.”

“How early? I’m still worn out, I’ll need to take something to sleep otherwise my brain won’t shut down and I’ll toss and turn all night.”

“Not later than 8am Dad. I think people will start arriving by then; Mary let her family know what to expect. Either we’ll pull it off and will be able to leave the shelter or we’ll get caught. In that case, I really don’t know. If we’re caught and if the Russians or China react, you know what to expect. How long can we run on the propane?”

“He filled them to 95% of capacity because it’s late in the year and the tanks are buried. That gives us 5,700 gallons plus any 25 pound bottles people might have. My best guess is about 3,560 hours, 148 days. We used about 1.6gph last time. There’s also 165 gallons for the gas generator and it uses roughly one-third of a gallon per hour just handling the freezer and refrigerator. If the background level is low enough, the farm tank is nearly full.”

“Are we well-armed and have enough ammo if there’s trouble?”

“The biggest weapon is your AR-50. We have a few 7.62x51mm and more of the 5.56x45mm. Most of the pistols are 9mm shooting Gold Dot plus a few .45s. Shotgun wise, we have 4 or 5 870s and maybe 1,250 rounds total of 00 and slugs.”

"I'll tell you what's in the boxes, but don't repeat it. We have 6 cartons of LAWs, that's thirty. There are 100 M67s, a case of 30-round M16 mags and 2 1,680 round cases of M855 and 500 rounds of 9mm ball. The 5.56 is packed on 10 round strippers in bandoleers with a charger."

"What about ammo for your .50 cal?"

"300 rounds of Raufoss and 300 rounds of APIT."

"I can replace the NBC filter on the VA-150. We don't want to do that until we know we need to. However, with that many people in the shelter I'll do the maintenance on the scrubber. I'm taking my pills and hitting the sack. See you in the morning."

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The majority of people in American aren't prepared in the event that TSHTF. I suppose there is such a thing as being over prepared or overly cautious. At least half of us had been through this before after the terrorist attacks a couple of months back. Before I went to bed, I set out 6 chickens to thaw, we might as well have our Labor Day picnic early. There was everything on hand to make a batch of macaroni salad and both had been praised on our Independence Day picnic. I could give Derek a \$20 to pick up a case of beer for those that could. You can buy a case of beer for \$20, can't you?

Between what I schemed and what Derek had said, I thought I had it all figured out. I was wrong. One of the reasons we only have 20 B-2s is the fact that they cost so much. However, with a single refueling, they can strike any target in the world with a payload of 16 B61s or 16 B83s. They could also be configured to carry 4 Mk-53s.

On Saturday morning, I got up, showered and ate pancakes. Then I cut up the 6 chickens and started in on the macaroni salad. I chopped until my arms were ready to fall off. Sharon boiled the macaroni and set it aside to cool. I got the jar of Miracle Whip and assembled the salad and put it in the refrigerator to cool.

As expected, people showed up early, the last arriving around 10am. Around 11, I fired up the gas grills so they could preheat and got ready to slow cook the chicken. Derek went after the beer, he bought 2 cases, and we prepared to have our early Labor Day picnic. Cox Communications had cable TV back up and Derek was glued to FOX News.

"Mind if I have a beer, Dad?"

"Have one for me Damon. If I'm right, the Middle East is going to become a glowing cinder at 3pm. We'll use those dirty 9mT bombs and they won't have a clue. Dr. J moved his entire family to LA several years ago."

"Who?"

“My doctor in LA. He’s from Iran. He married a nurse from Ireland and last I knew, they had 4 kids. You knew I went to college with a guy from Iran, didn’t you?”

“No. What did his family do?”

“Habib told me his father was a farmer and grew oil wells. That was back in the day of the Shah and I have no idea how they made out after the Ayatollah took over. Besides, Iran nationalized the oil in the early ‘50s. The grill’s hot, I’d better start the chicken.”

Sharon had taken out hot dogs and hamburgers because the kids probably wouldn’t want chicken. When the chicken was finished, I stacked it on my grill to stay warm and cooked the other stuff on Derek’s grill. By 1pm, the food was finished and we all sat down to eat.

“Any news?”

“It’s still early. Just the usual Labor Day coverage.”

“There won’t be many people celebrating this Labor Day. This has been an especially bad year, Derek. First we had the big one in California on Valentine’s Day and second the terrorists struck on July 5th. Dubya will probably end up starting WW III.”

“It got you out of California.”

“Every cloud has a silver lining?”

“Something like that. I haven’t been able to get everyone to agree to stay over for the night in the shelter.”

“No one is more than 15 minutes away. They can go home if they want as long as they’re ready to come back quickly. You have talked with John, haven’t you?”

“Mary talked to her Mom.”

“Do they understand what might happen?”

“Understand, yes; believe it, not entirely.”

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The Ohio and 3 other subs had been converted to SSGNs. Each could carry 22 tubes of Tomahawks with each tube containing 7 missiles, 154 per boat. The US built ~350 TLAM-N W80 warheads and ~1,800 ALCM/ACM W80 warheads. It was going to cost the US a bunch of money to refurbish the warheads which have a yield of 150kT.

The whiz kids are always with us. They fielded the M16 to replace the M14. They fielded the M9 to replace the M1911. They dreamed up the XM-29 OICW. Rumsfeld scraped the Crusader and the Comanche. Personally I believe the M14 was the finest MBR the US ever fielded. The M1911 must have been ok, it was around for 70 years and some soldiers still use it. In this case, they decided to use 2 SSGNs to launch 308 TLAM-Ns. The President should have gone on TV and told the world we were going to nuke the Middle East.

Not to disparage the Tomahawk, it's a jet not a rocket and it is very accurate. They're stamped, Made in the USA. George put Vlad in a very bad position when he allowed the whiz kids to talk him into using the TLAM-Ns. Maybe that's why Derek was glued to FOX News. I learned when he was in Iraq that he didn't tell me everything. Did that have anything to do with why he brought those boxes home?

When I was in the Air Force, we got a list of vacuum tubes that were outdated with instructions to discard them in the trash. I took them out of the trash and took them home. Not long after we had a shakedown inspection and there I was with those tubes from the trash. I didn't keep a copy of the memo that said to throw them away. Since the tubes hadn't been manufactured for a very long time, the current price was like the price of antiques. Never, ever take things out of military trashcans!!! I went to ISU, Warburg and Drake. As a result, I had an MBA. What I learned in those 3 schools was nothing compared to what I learned in the School of Hard Knocks. I was still learning from that school into my 50s.

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"Dad you'd better come into the house."

"Why?"

"FOX News has a Breaking News Alert. They're saying that the US attacked Iran and Syria using TLAM-Ns."

"No way anyone in the Administration could be that stupid," I said heading for the house.

In late May, 1989, I was sitting in the house watching TV when the CNN began broadcasting from Beijing, China. They were there because of Gorbachev's visit. I think the entire world watched Tiananmen Square and the Statute *Goddess of Democracy*. It was shocking. This was more shocking, Wolf Blitzer doesn't usually work on Saturdays. To tell the truth, I thought he was dead, he usually broadcasts from New York. Be that as it may, he was somewhere broadcasting for CNN. The lead story was bombings of cities in Iran and Saudi Arabia, allegedly with Tomahawk nuclear cruise missiles. I think that CNN is an International news organization, viewed in something like every country in the world. It has the second largest audience in the world (BBC has the largest).

“Son of a bitch. Grab the TV and I’ll tell the girls to get their things. Tell Damon to help Sharon empty the refrigerator. You’d better send Mary home to empty yours. Tell her she has 15 minutes and not one minute more.”

“But Dad...”

“This ain’t the time for a debate Derek. I’ll get my computer and wheelchair. At the minimum we have maybe 30 minutes and at the maximum, who knows, maybe one or two hours.”

He shut up, grabbed the TV and headed out the door. In a minute I heard a vehicle leaving and then Sharon and our children came in the door.

“CNN is reporting that we attacked Iran and Saudi Arabia. I expected we’d retaliate except I thought we’d be more discrete. We could have used B-2s and some of the old bombs in the permanent inventory and no one could have pinned on us. The attack, according to CNN, was made using TLAM-Ns.”

“What’s that?”

“Nuclear Tomahawks.”

“Does anyone besides us have them?”

“We sold about 100 of the conventional version to the UK. I think we’re the only country with N model.”

“Then Russia and China can prove it was us.”

“Right. We’re going to need to sit it out in the shelter until we know if they will retaliate.”

“I’ll empty the refrigerator and get everyone into the shelter. What are you doing?”

“Getting my chair and computer equipment. You’d better get your sewing machines too.”

My chair still had the canvas scabbards with the weapons and both of my chest pouches. I slipped into the M1A, loaded the computer, monitor and speakers and headed to the ramp. Mary was just pulling in and she scurried to get the boxes of food to the basement. John had gone to the shelter and had the radio warmed up and was glued to the TV. When everyone was in, we slid the ramp covering closed and closed the blast door. I quickly did the work on the carbon monoxide/dioxide scrubber and looked for the replacement GF150 Gas Filter for the VA-150. With the food put away, we all grabbed a chair and listened to the news on CNN.

I don't like CNN or CBS, generally substituting the word Communist for the C word. If they just reported the news instead of spending most of the time trying to put a spin on it, I might think otherwise. At the moment Wolf was speculating whether anyone would retaliate for the strike. One of the other commentators was speculating that it wasn't us but the Israelis. All of the non-Fox commentators were raking Dubya over the coals.

About 45 minutes after we settled in the EAS tone sounded. I glanced at Derek and he at me. I rolled my eyes and he shook his head. George wasn't even wearing a suit; instead he was dressed like he usually did when he was in Crawford giving Cindy Sheehan a hard time. I didn't listen because I knew what he was going say, "Bend over and kiss your butts goodbye."

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I had work to do and got Damon to help me. I had to put the new filter in VA-150 now that I was sure an attack was coming. I told Derek to turn off the radios and make sure the antenna switches were in the ground position. After only God knows how many stories, I had a list in my head of things we had to do in the event of an attack. I should have used the handle Preparedness Preacher instead of Tired Old Man. We'd watch TV until it went off the air, which would tell us the attack had begun.

Back in Palmdale I had an earthquake alarm. It never worked except when you slammed the front door, but I had one. We had to install a carbon monoxide detector to conform to the California law. We didn't have a security system in our new home, we didn't need it. West of us about 190 miles was Tulsa. The metropolitan area included about 1 million people; I figured it would make the target list.

"Is he in the White House?"

"I don't know if there is a White House. Oh, you mean the blue backdrop? I think he carries it with him so nobody will know where he is."

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THREATCON DEFINITIONS

The threat conditions (THREATCONs) describe the progressive levels of protective measures implemented by all DoD components in response to terrorist threats.

Terrorist Force Protection Condition (FPCON)

A Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-approved program standardizes the military services' identification of and recommended responses to terrorist threats against US personnel and facilities. This program facilitates interservice coordination and support for antiterrorism activities. Also called FPCONs.

FPCON NORMAL

Exists when a general threat of possible terrorist activity exists but warrants only a routine security posture.

FPCON ALPHA

This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of FPCON BRAVO measures. However, it may be necessary to implement certain measures from higher THREATCONS resulting from intelligence received or as a deterrent. The measures in this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained indefinitely.

FPCON BRAVO

This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. The measures in this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained for weeks without causing undue hardship, affecting operational capability, and aggravating relations with local authorities.

FPCON CHARLIE

This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent. Implementation of measures in this THREATCON for more than a short period probably will create hardship and affect the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.

FPCON DELTA

This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely. Normally, this THREATCON is declared as a localized condition.

DEFCON DEFense CONdition

In the event of a national emergency, a series of seven different alert Conditions (LERTCONS) can be called. The 7 LERTCONS are broken down into 5 Defense Conditions (DEFCONs) and 2 Emergency Conditions (EMERGCONs).

Defense readiness conditions (DEFCONs) describe progressive alert postures primarily for use between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of unified commands. DEFCONs are graduated to match situations of varying military severity, and are numbered 5,4,3,2, and 1 as appropriate. DEFCONs are phased increases in combat readiness. In general terms, these are descriptions of DEFCONs:

DEFCON 5 Normal peacetime readiness
DEFCON 4 Normal, increased intelligence and strengthened security measures
DEFCON 3 Increase in force readiness above normal readiness
DEFCON 2 Further Increase in force readiness, but less than maximum readiness
DEFCON 1 Maximum force readiness.

EMERGCOns are national level reactions in response to ICBM (missiles in the air) attack. By definition, other forces go to DEFCON 1 during an EMERGCOn.

DEFENSE EMERGENCY: Major attack upon US forces overseas, or allied forces in any area, and is confirmed either by the commander of a unified or specified command or higher authority or an overt attack of any type is made upon the United States and is confirmed by the commander of a unified or specified command or higher authority.

AIR DEFENSE EMERGENCY: Air defense emergency is an emergency condition, declared by the Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command. It indicates that attack upon the continental United States, Canada, or US installations in Greenland by hostile aircraft or missiles is considered probable, is imminent, or is taking place.

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“It’s an Air Defense Emergency, Dad,” Derek explained.

“Huh?”

“Incoming.”

“I should have had T-Shirts printed, *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb.*”

If you take a gander at a map of Arkansas, the most obvious target is Little Rock. About 30 miles south of there is the Pine Bluff Arsenal. We’d managed to circle the wagons, one more time. As luck would have it, we had more than enough beds, tables and chairs. I’d taken the cop’s advice and got the shelter restocked, I’d have been foolish not to. We even managed to fill the diesel tank and replace the oil and filters. When the folks in Florida get a hurricane warning from the Governor, they believe him. Between the way Derek had been acting and what the cop said, I had held the Labor Day picnic 2 days early. Maybe I was finally getting some common sense and listening for a change.

Survival Story – Chapter 14

Maybe the terrorist attacks were just drills, whatever they were, they were our shake-down cruise. Although we hadn't had any serious problems the first time, I couldn't promise we wouldn't this time. Then, the lights flickered out and the generator alarm went off, right about the time we felt the small earthquake. I quickly turned it off only to listen to 5 frightened children screaming. Elizabeth and Audrey were the first two to regain their composure followed by Udell and finally Jeffrey and Joshua. I turned on the CD V-717 and started a new log in a new notebook.

The TV was off and unplugged, Derek had done that as soon as he explained we had an Air Defense Alert. I could have looked it up, in my Resources subdirectory, I had files with all of those acronyms and what they meant. Incoming said it all, succinctly. I wanted to scream at the top of my lungs, "Why didn't those idiots use the old bombs?" Maybe it wouldn't have made a difference, assuming the Russians knew we had 9mT bombs in our reserves, we may never know. However, WW III made three for those of you who believe in the Rule of Threes.

My old partner Ron's life had been saved because he got cancer. Maybe our lives had been saved because of the big one. On the other hand, may I'd better wait to count the chickens when the eggs hatch. I was supposed to write stories about the end of the world (as we know it), not experience it. The list of cities they'd have to rebuild just went from 25 to an unimaginable number.

There were things on my computer that would help, I downloaded gigabytes of material before the big one and more after we were setup in Arkansas. I didn't have everything I wanted, you never do. That mostly ended with the terrorist attacks. There was one asset we had that no one else had, SSgt. Derek Ott. He had combat experience in Kosovo and Iraq. He could drive, load, gun and command a M1 Abrams. He had Depot level training in maintaining small arms. He was our jack of all trades and master of some. He was also our limited medical resource with his Combat Lifesaver Training.

I had a Physician's Desk Reference that wasn't too far out of date and could find replacement drugs, if required. First things first, we had to ride out the radiation. We had practice with this, thanks to the terrorists. It may have been foolish, but we were thinking of our neighbors. We had enough room and food to help any who knew to show up. I hadn't been like the guy on Twilight Zone and made a big to do about our basement aka shelter. Neither did I lie about it and there were people in Gassville who had been involved in its construction.

There were also people who serviced our location, delivering propane and diesel, and they had to know something, who else had 2 3k tanks with a 95% fill and a 40,000 gallon diesel tank? I hadn't put in solar panels for several reasons: they are very expensive, they're susceptible to EMP, they require huge battery banks and large, expensive inverters. The only inverters I had were two 6kw, just in case the 7kw gasoline fueled

generator wouldn't start when we needed to shut down the Kohler 30REOZJB. Maybe being obsessive-compulsive wasn't entirely a bad thing.

With Tulsa being 190 miles to the west (heading was 275°) and the wind at a steady rate of 12mph, Derek and I agreed that the CD V-717 would start to click ~16 hours after the generator kicked in, give or take. He turned on an AM/FM radio and picked up a station in the area. The announcer was explaining that they were on backup power and would remain on the air for about 14 more hours, if possible. After, they were heading to a shelter.

The station didn't have any news about Little Rock, but they'd seen at least 2 dim flashes of light to the south and a very dim one to the west. They gave the wind direction as 95°, indicating that with a little luck we might miss major fallout from Tulsa. Little Rock is ~110 miles south on a heading of 176°. Pine Bluff is ~145 miles on a heading of 170°. We'd survived the terrorist bombings, how much different could this be?

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The answer is: a lot different. We could only make assumptions about what cities had been hit. We didn't know if the focus was on military or civilian targets. Obviously some civilian, but how many? Would whoever struck the US re-attack the 24 cities that the terrorists had struck or would they retarget the weapons to other targets of opportunity? I sure hope Ron got the heck out of California and moved to Cedar Hill. For him, it was six of one and a half dozen of the other, there were no targets near Cedar Hill, but the elevation was >4,000', which would aggravate his medical condition.

"I don't suppose that that stuff you're storing includes a SINCGARS radio does it?"

"It doesn't. It was actually just what I told you it was, Dad, we were storing a few things under orders. When we can get to Fort Chaffee or Mountain Home, I can get you a radio. I won't be able to leave this shelter for some time and can't report as ordered."

"Hello the basement!"

"Get that would you, there are a few people who know about this shelter, like the construction people and the gas man."

Derek slipped into his chest pack and Damon and John grabbed 870s. They could exit the blast door and look around the corner and up the ramp to see who was there without revealing their position. I heard a, "Who goes there?" from Derek and barely heard the reply, "Gas man."

"Let him in," I yelled.

"He has his family," Derek replied.

“Let them in,” I yelled back.

I can't tell you what church the guy belonged to, but he has taken the Bible's advice literally, they had 6 kids. He also drove a semi and pulled a propane tanker. He and his wife had driven their van to the terminal and packed the kids into the sleeper compartment of a tractor hooked to a tanker that had been loaded the day before with 9,000 gallons of propane for delivery Tuesday. His bona fides were in order. Man, were they in order!!! All we needed to have a complete set was a carpenter, a plumber, an electrician and a diesel mechanic.

Because some cars use fuel injection, I suppose that you could say we aced out. The mechanic was a gasoline engine mechanic and the other guy was a construction supervisor, the supervisor on our basement job, and he knew a little about plumbing, carpentry and electricity. They bought their families, but I assumed they were Methodists because they only had a pair of kids, each. That made 16 additional people and I told Derek to close the ramp cover and the blast door, we were full up.

“Someone might steal the propane, Dad.”

“Did he pull the keys from the truck?”

“I did, Mr. Ott, thank you. We have a few weapons, and ammo, but not much food.”

“What is a few?”

“A FN FAL, an AR-15 and 2 9mm pistols.”

“Food isn't a problem, but we've never been formally introduced.”

“Arthur Benson and my wife Carol. Do you need the kids' names?”

“Someone will, but I'm a recovering alcoholic and we're really bad at remembering names. Ok Art?”

“That's what most people call me.”

“How did you know to bring the propane?”

“You are the largest residential customer, in terms of storage capacity and I knew about your shelter. I sort of figured that a tanker of gas was worth a place.”

“Good guess. Catholic or Mormon?”

“LDS.”

“I have a Book of Mormon some place if you forgot yours.”

“Are you LDS?”

“No, Art, I’m not, but I try to cover all bases. I also have a Catholic Bible. I am a Methodist, but hope you won’t hold it against me. Derek is a Baptist and I don’t hold it against him. I do have some friends who are LDS, but they are not from around here.”

“Utah?”

“As a matter of fact, Payson. My friend is a CERT and a friend of the folks who own Utah Shelter Systems.”

“So he has one of their shelters?”

“He told me he didn’t but was working on something else. They build a good shelter and have the National dealership for ANDAIR systems. This shelter has an ANDAIR VA-150 and supports 50 people running fulltime.”

“How big is it?”

“Same size as the house, 30’x76’. That’s ~2,280ft² less the thickness of the walls. We never got a chance to finish it so there is the bathroom, the power room and the armory. What you see is what you get.”

Derek spent time getting to know the contractor, Bob and our mechanic, Joe. I was mostly sitting at my radio desk with the headphones on listening for radio signals and keeping an eye on the CD V-717. You wouldn’t know it but I tend to be a little shy, probably because I feel less than most folks. It is just part of my makeup, I didn’t ask to be this way and I’m too old to change. To really know who I am, you have to have been where I’ve been and done what I’ve done. In bygone days, I had a really quick mind, but like the flip of a coin it was only right about 50% of the time, except when it came to tax law.

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To create a little privacy in the shelter, we’d drilled holes and used anchors after the terrorist attacks to anchor hooks in the ceiling. From these, we could hang sheets or whatever we had and create family sleeping areas. It was an illusion, you could hear someone break wind from 3 compartments away, but you could dress and undress. Modesty seems to run the gambit from none to excessive. I had big plans for walls; this way, we had more flexibility and saved a lot of money.

In all of my stories, most of which envision WW III, salvage becomes important. Unless you’re Bill Gates and have a couple of bucks, you could never store everything you’d need for the remainder of your life. Unless you died really quick that is. In the aftermath of WW III, we all have an idea what to expect, nothing. No or little government, certainly

no help. Nuclear winter or not, the growing season is sure to be messed up. They will be general disorder, if not chaos. Law enforcement, depending on the location, maybe excessive or nonexistent. Your best friend may be the weapons you have, especially if law enforcement is nonexistent.

The laws on the books won't mean much; I mean who cares if your weapon is Politically Correct as long as it works? The single most important thing will be your ability to shelter beyond the reach of the radioactive fallout. You may not be able to completely protect yourself, BUT, if you can keep your radiation dose under 300REMs over 120 days, you will probably survive, or so I've heard. What do you need to survive? Air, shelter, water, food, in that order, 3 minutes, 3 hours, 3 days and 3 weeks, another rule of threes. There is safety in numbers and you can increase your numbers if you can provide the first three things listed.

Many people seem to think that they wouldn't want to live in the mess that would be the aftermath of WW III. That suits me just fine, it's their choice and that will leave more for the rest of us to salvage. Salvaging will rule the day, trust me on this. If you really believe FEMA will be there to help you, you haven't heard of New Orleans. Some people will be running around in the fallout trying to collect what they need to survive the time in the shelter. Some of them are going to die, from various causes. If you ain't got it, you probably won't find it, prepare, prepare, prepare. Do I hear an Amen? The Good Book reportedly says, God helps those that help themselves. (Not true.) Does that mean God approves of people helping themselves in the aftermath?

You can take that any way you want, but there is a difference between salvaging and looting. Loot: To pillage; spoil. Salvage: To save from loss or destruction. Strategic: Important or essential in relation to a plan of action. Reallocation: Allocate, distribute, or apportion anew. Therefore, I conclude that strategic reallocation is a redistribution of essential assets to survive. A large screen TV, a bottle of booze or jewelry probably isn't essential, but food, water, weapons, ammo, fuel and vehicles very well may be. Even Louisiana allows you to take essentials in an emergency, whereas California would probably go around collecting guns and your food to redistribute to the poor so they'd have better arms when they looted. Another thing you should be very careful about is helping others. If they die on you, the state of Louisiana will charge you with murder.

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And now you know why I locked the door and what I plan to do when it is reopened. Have you read *Paradise* by Flight ER Doc? I wish Rick had stopped in when he went by Palmdale. The main point is that Rick and Lisa had the right idea. They salvaged all kinds of things and used those things to help other people. Remember, however, that people who become doctors are usually codependent, not that that is a bad thing, unless you work in New Orleans. I don't have to be too smart to know that Rick had big ones, he flew a Wild Weasel. On top of that, he had 3,000 hours in a Hercules. I flew in a C130 twice and never again.

Derek was at the radio table when the CD V-717 started to register radiation. He noted the date, time and level in the log book and continued to do so every 15 minutes thereafter. When he had determined a peak level, I dug out seven ten rule.xls and plugged the peak level of 3,000 into the box. I confirmed that our current level corresponded to the decay level in the hours since the dentation... it was very close. Then I scrolled down column H to the number 100. From there, I moved to the B column and got the number of hours. It also showed the number of days (hours divided by 24), number of weeks (days divided by 7), months (days divided by 30.4375) and years (days divided by 365.25). In this case, we had a peak level of 1,035R/hr which yielded 2,401 hours to reach 103.5mR/hr. I sent the spreadsheet to several people and was more than willing to share it with anyone who asked.

Speaking of Wild Weasels, I once read a series of novels about Wild Weasels, these guys were flying the Phantoms, and a principal character in the story was a guy named Waters, Muddy Waters. In real life, there was a Wild Weasel nicknamed Muddy Waters. I found the story, *The Warbirds* by Richard Herman Jr. The novel begins with the 45th Air Wing posted to Egypt, where the first segment of the book begins. As storm clouds gather in the Persian Gulf, and following a clash with Libyan planes, the unit is reposted to RAF Stonewood for training purposes, under its talented new leader Muddy Waters. The last third of the book covers its posting to the Persian Gulf to oppose an Iranian campaign to overrun the oilfields.

Richard Herman has a real talent in populating his novels with distinctive and memorable characters. *The Warbirds* establishes the core group of the early Herman novels, in particular: Anthony Muddy Waters, Jack Locke, James Thunder Bryant, Doc Landis, Rupert Stansell and Ambler Furry. Herman defines his characters by their actions. The result is a set of interesting and likable individuals.

Perhaps by virtue of his own Air Force experience, Herman's depiction of the service is frank. Particular emphasis is paid to the necessity of adaptation under training and combat conditions. Bureaucracy takes its toll on the characters, and the hero, Muddy Waters, is forced to repeatedly defend both his men and his command from rivals in the Air Force.

The last third of the book contains some very well rendered depictions of combat. The 45th is steadily attrited by combat against an Iranian army, and, in the final section of the book, forced to fight for its life against an amphibious attack. The losses it suffers are made vivid by the author's willingness to sacrifice likable characters (something lacking in other genre authors).

Good characterization, tense action and (amateur editorial review above to the contrary) solid plotting make *The Warbirds* an early classic of the military genre and a great first novel for Richard Herman. By all means read this and then *Force of Eagles*, which is its immediate sequel.

Set in the immediate future, this sequel to *The Warbirds* tells of a mission to rescue 300 Air Force prisoners left in Iranian hands at the end of the first novel. Starting slowly, with many flashbacks to its predecessor and confusing shifts of scene, the story finds its pace once the operation itself gets under way. Ample and convincing air and ground action animates the 30-day enterprise, which involves a small force of Rangers, supported by fighters and gunships. Herman, a retired Air Force pilot, handles technical details and interservice politics with convincing finesse. His characters are two-dimensional, but sustain their plot roles adequately without getting in the way of the action that is the book's focus. Refreshingly, the rescue plan depends for success on neither an unlikely perfection of execution nor an implausibly incompetent enemy.

In taking great pains to show the dangers in high-level micro-management of fast-moving special operations, however, Herman diminishes his argument by overkill. So anyway, if you want to read some fiction about Wild Weasels, give Herman a chance. The real Wild Weasel started out in F-100Fs and transitioned to F-105F and next to the F-4C, the F-4E and the F-4G before the F-16 block 50D/52D, the current Wild Weasel. Maybe some of those politicians in wherever the Capital is today ought to read Herman's stories.

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Sorry about that, but I got to thinking about Wild Weasels and had to find the story and mention it. The unofficial motto of the Wild Weasel crews is YGBSM: *You Gotta Be Shittin' Me*. As the story goes, this was the response of the initial Wild Weasel EWO's – former B-52 electronic warfare officers – when they first learned what the mission entailed. The missions were so dangerous and required so much teamwork that before starting their combat tours, some crews, graduating from "Weasel College" (the Nellis Air Force Base training program), took part in a mock wedding ceremony. The "WW" tailcode of the 35th Fighter Wing derives from its Wild Weasel heritage. We all know the mission, go out and get your aircraft painted by enemy radar so you can lob a HARM (or before that SHRIKE) into the radar dish of the SAM unit while 2-3 SAMs were coming at you.

With the radiation level peaked right at 1,035R/hr, unintentional number, I assure you, and needing a maximum level of 104mR/hr, we had to spend 7 to the 4th power of hours in the shelter, 100 days plus 1 hour. And even then, no children nor men or women of child bearing age would be allowed out for more than 12 hours until the level fell to 50mR. Call it dumb luck, but I got our 400+ VHS movies back from Amy when we moved and we had another 100+ DVDs. I had a DVD player and Sharon had a VHS/DVD player. They were easy to switch depending upon what movie people wanted to watch. At the end of the first two weeks, some of the newcomers thought maybe we could leave.

"Folks, it's like Hotel California, you can check out, but you can never leave. At 10R/hr, you would accumulate a fatal dose of radiation in 30 hours. I'll let you out, but you're not coming back in. Assuming we all sleep an average of 8 hours per night, and we have

400 movies with an average of 2 hours running time, that's enough movies for half of the remaining time."

"To continue, we have a few boxes of paperbacks if you'd rather read. I'm sure that Sharon and Mary could use help planning and preparing meals. If all they ever prepared was homemade chili, I be in Heaven. However, we have a 25ft² freezer mostly full of meat and enough choices to make everyone happy. To resolve the smoking issue, we'll only smoke in the armory, unless you want smoke in the generator room. I wouldn't recommend it, the generator isn't as quiet as I would like it to be, it's hot and the room isn't that big. We don't have enough weapons to go around, but if you have your own, we can try to come up with ammo. We're heavy on .22LR, 5.56, 7.62 NATO, 9mm and .45ACP. Our shot gun ammo is limited as primarily defensive ammo opposed to hunting ammo. Any questions so far?"

"Do you have any 30-06?"

"There one case of Korean Garand ammo in the 8-round enbloc clips. We'll try to hit Wally World first thing and go for a list of priority items on my computer. If you need something, let me know and I'll consider adding it to the list."

"How come you're in charge?"

"It's our shelter. For the duration, this is not a Democracy. I will consider any suggestion and consult with my advisory group before we decide whether or not to accept the suggestion. My advisory group will consist of John, Mary, Derek and one wildcard, Damon. No weapons will be allowed out of the armory with live ammo, but you should keep your weapons serviced. We've already done this once and we have an idea what to expect. For anyone who has claustrophobia or any anxiety, see me, I have a large supply of chill pills."

"What if we don't want to go along with you?"

"There's the door, don't let it hit on the ass on your way out."

"What about my propane?"

"Art, I'll reimburse you exactly what you paid for it."

"Oh. But I looted it from my employer."

"Have someone explain strategic reallocation to you. What you did was to salvage the propane. If you brought a 42" LCD screen TV with you that you don't own, that's looting."

"You're from California?"

“Iowa, actually. I was born in California, raised in Iowa, spend most of my enlistment in California and worked in Iowa for several years. I’m 64 and I’ve only spent 32 years in California, so I consider myself an Iowan.”

“Are we going to have trouble once we leave?”

“I’ll consult my crystal ball, but off hand, I say we’ll have some.”

“What about our medical needs?”

“What about them?”

“I don’t have enough of my pills for more than 4 weeks.”

“We will try and improvise something. Joe, you’re in charge of maintaining the generator. The owner’s manual is in the generator room together with enough oil and filters to service it 36 times. Unless the opposing force used a high altitude bomb to create an EMP, your vehicles should all run. Sharon and I have one of those automotive emergency packs that carries air and a jump starter. By the time we can leave, you may have dead batteries, but don’t sweat it. I’m sure Joe can get most of the vehicles running if he can get parts.”

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“Excuse me... EXCUSE ME ! Would all of the adults and anyone age 16 and up please join together at the tables?”

“Thank you. If you don’t know, my name is Gary Ott and my wife Sharon and I own this hole in the ground. The peak radiation level appears to have been in excess of 1,000 Rads/hr. Our survey meters only go to 500 Rads but we can make estimations based on the seven ten rule and a spreadsheet I have. Our best guess is about 1,035 Rads. I won’t be safe to leave the shelter on a fulltime basis until the outside radiation level is 104mR/hr or less. That will take 100 days.”

I paused to let them discuss that among themselves. We had time and I didn’t want to get too pushy, yet.

“May I continue? We have enough consumables to handle everyone’s needs for the 100 days and sometime after. What I want talk about is the after. The odds are that everything will look pretty normal unless there has been a fire somewhere. We think the radiation peaked on September 2nd or 3rd. That will put our Freedom Day around December 12th. Although I’m not familiar with the winter weather around here, there’s going to be snow on the ground. There will be a lot of crap in the air cooling the planet. Blame Carl Sagan, they call it nuclear winter.”

Many of them had heard of the TTAPS Study. Some of them thought it had been disproved. In fact, it hadn't, recent models showed that the study was flawed but only in the sense that it hadn't gone far enough, being a 2 dimensional model. I let them yak, it wouldn't change the outcome; recent models showed that it could spread to the southern hemisphere.

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That reminds me of a song:

*Our day will come
And we'll have everything*

I liked Zager and Evans better:

*In the year 2525
If man is still alive.
If woman can survive, they may find.*

*Now it's been ten thousand years
Man has cried a billion tears.
For what he never knew,
now man's reign is through.*

*But through eternal night.
The twinkling of starlight.
So very far away.
Maybe it's only yesterday.*

The most dangerous animal on planet Earth is man. Man has a higher order brain and can think, not always a good thing. On the other hand, man is far from perfect and we couldn't even manage to kill ourselves off, at least not in the beginning. If we weren't Clint Eastwood fans, we didn't have a chance because we wouldn't know to *Improvise, Adapt and Overcome*.

Very few animals kill out of spite or because they're just plain mean, like a wolverine. The exception is the human animal that doesn't really need a valid reason to kill. Humans have created tools, ranging from something with an edge up to and including nuclear weapons. We have perfected the art of killing and are still looking to make improvements. That's the truth and I'm sorry for you if you don't believe it.

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"To continue, please. Unless the attacker used an EMP weapon, we should be able to get your vehicles to start, eventually. The problem will be getting fuel, of course, and parts. Our primary needs will be food and medicine. Believe it or not, there is a differ-

ence between taking something you need to live and something you want. Salvaging can be viewed as saving while pillaging can't, in my mind, be justified.”